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March 1996

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Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-044 *5 March 1996*

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Albania: Founders of Illegal Communist Party Arrested

AU0403150696 Tirana GAZETA SHQIPTARE in Albanian 3 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Mentor Kikia: "Illegal Communist Party: Four Arrested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tirana—Four communists who attempted to revive the Albanian Communist Party [Partia Komuniste Shqiptare] have been arrested. On Friday [1 March] evening, the courts signed arrest warrents for Timoshenko Pekmezi, Sami Meta, Tare Isufi, and Kristaq Mosko. There is still no confirmation of the nature of the charges against them, but it has been learned that the four men arrested attempted to create an underground communist party, and that a broader offensive has been mounted against illegal communist activities. The police have seized large quantities of the Works of Enver Hoxha, slogans, portraits of Hoxha, and lists of names, and have detained several young people aged between 22 and 28. Although there is no confirmation from official sources, it seems that these young people constitute the so-called Communist Youth Organization [Organizata e Rinise Komuniste], which operates underground.

Communism remains alive in Albania. The Communist Party was officially declared illegal three years ago. Under the leadership of Hysni Milloshi, it had survived until the parliament decided to ban it after bitter debates about political pluralism. Meanwhile, Albania's Constitutional Law also forbids the creation of communist parties. After the downfall of the dictatorship and the toppling of Hoxha's monument in Tirana, this party organized rallies and marches of hundreds of people holding the dictator's portrait.

The shadow of communism seemed for three years to havd been banished from Albania. Yet recently, dozens of slogans have appeared on walls and many pamphlets have been scattered in the streets, first in various provincial towns and latterly in Tirana. Their message was mainly a call to bring back the communist system, and the names of Enver Hoxha and Stalin were not missing. A few weeks ago, Tirana woke up to find walls scrawled with the slogans "Berisha-Pinochet" and "Long live Enver." The slogans and tracts were an apple of discord between the two largest parties, the Democratic Party and the Socialist Party. The most recent incident was at the Franciscan church in Tirana. A few days ago, its courtyard was plastered with posters reading "Long live Enver Hoxha; Long live Stalin..."

These cases have led the Albanian judiciary to believe that a central leadership directs these activities. The contents of these tracts and the manner of their distribution leads to suspicion that this illegal activities have been organized. Pekmezi, Meta, Isufi, and Mosko were thefore arrested on Friday evening. Investigations have started, but there are still no reports as to how far these men's underground activities extended or whether they were involved in the distribution of communist and anti-national pamphlets. However, it seems that large quantities of other materials forming the ideological basis of the new communist party have fallen into the hands of the police and the other Albanian aauthorities. There are unconfirmed reports that dozens of works of the former dictator Enver Hoxha, portraits of him, and the list of the names of young people making up what was called the Communist Youth Organization have been seized and handed to the Tirana procurator. There is no information about the activities of the underground organization or about whether it represented an attempt to recreate the dissolved former party or to create a new faction.

Albania: Opposition Parties Allegedly Form 'Red Front'

AU0303190496 Tirana RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE in Albanian 2 Mar 96 p 1

[Article by Edi Paloka: "What Was Said at the Secret Meeting of the Bosses of the Socialist Party, the Social Democrat Party, and the Democratic Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nobody can deny what was discussed at the secret meeting of the bosses of the Socialist Party [PS], the Social Democratic Party [PSD], and the Democratic Alliance [AD], held in one of the offices of the newspaper ALEANCA a few days before the AD Assembly and the PSD Congress. How far can the egotism of people claiming to lead a people extend? Only the minds of left-wing leaders can imagine such an absurdity as the sight of party leaders plotting against their own parties. At about 2300 one February night, thinking that nobody would be in the ALEANCA offices, some of the PS, PSD, and AD leaders (see photograph [not reproduced here]) gathered to map out the future, without even informing the other bosses of their parties. A source within the AD revealed to RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE a short time ago the plans of Ceka and Imami to enter parliament, but it has only now been discovered that everything was decided in the ALEANCA offices on that February night. It is no accident that the majority of those who gathered in that office were precisely those whose fingers have been burned by the Anti-Genocide Law.

But what specifically was decided that night? It can be said without a shadow of doubt that it was finally decided to create what has long been known as the Red

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Front. Only one person of the AD among those present at the meeting opposed this decision, but without success. The most perverse and unimaginable suggestions were made not only about how they were to achieve their goal of "victory," but how they would camouflage the shameful coalition. Their greatest shame lies in the fact that this coalition is to be kept secret first of all from their respective parties and their committees. [passage omitted]

Albania: Vefa Spokesman Denies Involvement in Weapons Trade

AU0503094796 Tirana ATA in English 2030 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, March 1 (ATA)—Spokesman of Vefa Holding, a supermarket of which was destroyed by the blast, issued a press release denying a REUTERS story saying that the company "is involved in weapons' trade besides other activities."

"The truth of the REUTERS story stands on the fact that 'Vefa has various activities.'" The lie stands on the fact that "it is not involved in weapons' trade." On this occasion we say to the author of the story that "Vefa Holding is not involved in weapons' trade and any other activity which runs contrary to the state law, society and its moral besides various production and trade activities," Vefa Holding spokesman said as regards to a story written by Benet Koleka, Tirana REUTERS correspondent.

"At a time when the public opinion in a democratic society is interested in a quick, correct and objective information, there are journalists who, violating the fundamental principles of the press, try to misinform, suppose and make analogy contrary to the truth," spokesman said.

He said that the public opinion has voiced its consideration both for the production, trade and investment activity and for the prestige of this company, a prestige which has been enhanced and extended through determined work, using the chances offered by a market economy.

Albania: Arbnori Receives Visiting French Senate President

AU0303160696 Tirana ATA in English 1633 GMT 1 Mar 96

[Report by R. Floqi, A. Sakja]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, March 1 (ATA)—The president of the senate of the French Republic, Rene Monory, arrived in Albania today for a two day visit.

The delegation headed by Monory comprises the chairman of the France-Albania friendship group in the Senate, senator Ronit Serge Mathieu, the director of its cabinet, Jean-Domenique Giuliani, and other members.

During the visit, Monory is expected to meet Albanian statesmen, including President of the Republic Sali Berisha and Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi.

Speaker of the Albanian Parliament Pjeter Arbnori held talks with the president of the French Senate, Rene Monory, who arrived for a two-day visit in Albania today.

Arbnori briefed Monory on Albania's achievements, promotion of economic reforms and establishment of a rule of law during the last four years of the victory of democracy. These are the priorities of the Albanian Parliament. He acquainted the French guest with the structure and function of the parliament and some major laws approved by this legislation.

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with France, which will enable Albania to come closer to the European Union, were on the focus of negotiations. Arbnori reiterated Albania's view to protect human and national rights of the Albanians in Kosova and contribution to safeguard stability and peace in the region.

Monory considered his Albania visit not a mere courtesy visit but an expression of the French interests in promotion of relations between the two countries. He promised that when he returns to France he will sensitize business and industrial circles to study possibilities for an increase of French investments in Albania.

French ambassador to Tirana, Louis Dominici, and head of the parliamentary group of Albania-France friendship, Rushen Golemi were present.

President of French Senate Monory is expected to hold talks with the President of the Republic of Albania Sali Berisha and address the parliament.

Albania: Berisha Receives Chirac Message Confirming Support

AU0503122496 Tirana ATA in English 1057 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, March 1 (ATA)—Albanian President Sali Berisha has received the following message from President of French Republic Jacques Chirac:

"On the occasion of the visit of Mr. Rene Monory, president of the French Senate, I greet and assure you of

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my profound interest in the development of the French-Albanian relations. France will back your efforts to build the market economy and the rule of law.

Precisely, under this spirit, we have decided to send 3,000 tons of wheat in humanitarian aid to alleviate the damages caused by the floods.

Also, the agreement on gold is another significant step. Albania's European orientation has had and will have France's support.

We support you for opening negotiations on the European agreement with your country. I am convinced that the visit of the president of the senate is a landmark in the two countries' relations.

Albania: Meksi, French Senate President Discuss Relations

AU0503142696 Tirana ATA in English 1854 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, March 2 (ATA)—"You are on the right road. You need the assistance of Europe and France on this road. We shall help you. I am here to convey precisely this message," said the president of the French Senate, Rone Monory, at the beginning of the meeting with Premier Aleksander Meksi today.

"Your visit marks an important development in the Albanian-French relations," said Mr. Meksi. "The democratic reform processes in Albania have been difficult but successful. Assistance by the European Union, and in this context that of France, have their made their successful contribution to this aspect," said Meksi. He said that French investors should increase their presence in Albania. Meksi asked the support of France for Albania's association agreement with the EU.

Regarding the situation in the region, Mr. Meksi said that stability is reached with the solution of the Kosova question. After reiterating Albania's stand on this matter, he asked for a greater international pressure towards Belgrade.

Retaking the floor, Mr. Monory appreciated the achievements of the reforms in Albania and assured of the French support for the democratic reform processes in Albania and its full integration in Europe. Regarding the situation in the region, Mr. Monory highlighted the role and determination of President Chirac for the establishment of peace and stressed the importance of a peaceful solution to the Kosova question. In conclusion, Mr. Monory said that "I will convey to President Chirac the feelings of this country for France, in order that French presence in Albania increase in the future."

Albania: Socialist Party's Pellumbi Meets UK Ambassador

AU0303192696 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 2 Mar 96 p 1

[Statement issued by Socialist Party press spokesman in Tirana on 1 March: "Meeting of Socialist Party Deputy Chairman Servet Pellumbi With British Ambassador Tesoriere"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the start of his meeting with Ambassador Tesoriere, Dr. Servet Pellumbi expressed his appreciation of the elevation of the United Kingdom's diplomatic representation in Albania to ambassadorial level, and expressed his hope that this will encourage the further development of relations between our two countries and peoples. He expressed his appreciation of the contribution of the United Kingdom as a country with a democratic tradition to the positive development of democracy in our country. Mr. Pellumbi also expressed to Mr. Tesoriere the views of the Socialist Party [PS] about the situation in thecountry and repeated the need for all political forces to struggle together against terrorism and crime of all kinds. A calm situation free of incidents is necessary to make the next elections free, fair, and democratic.

In reply to the ambassador's questions, Mr. Pellumbi described various aspects of the PS's organization, its policies, and its options for cooperation with other political forces before and after the elections.

The PS's stands on foreign policy, relations with Europe, faster Euro-Atlantic integration, relations of good-neighborliness, the issue of Kosova, and Balkan cooperation also assumed an important place at the meeting. The Electoral Law, the Genocide Law, and the need for extensive international assistance at the next election were also discussed at the meeting. The British ambassador expressed his thanks for the hospitality extended to him and expressed the opinion that the United Kingdom will cooperate with the government of any political party that emerges from free and democratic elections.

Albania: Deputies, Norwegian Official View Ties, PFP

AU0103141996 Tirana ATA in English 0851 GMT 29 Feb 96

[Article by A. Sakja]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, February 28 (ATA)—The State Foreign Secretary of Norway Siri Bjorke held a meeting with the Albanian Parliamentary Foreign Commission today.

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The meeting focused on the strengthening of ties between the Albanian and Norwegian parliamentarians, commitment of the Albanian state to be integrated into the European structures and NATO and cooperation in various cultural, health, and economic fields between the two countries.

"Norway is interested in the integration into European organizations of new state coming out of the dictatorship, like your country," Bjorke said, adding that though her country is not a EU member it has many links with it."

She said that Albania's engagement so far in the context of Partnership for Peace [PFP] has been a good preparation for its NATO membership.

Situation in the region and the solution of the Kosova problem were on the focus of the talks. Bjorke voiced her concern over the grave situation in Kosova and said that "our engagement in Bosnia does not mean that we have left Kosova in the margin. Its solution should be achieved through negotiations." She also expressed her country's readiness to assist the Kosova emigrants in Norway.

Albania: Berisha, Meksi Receive Greek Delegation

AU0103194596 Tirana ATA in English 1733 GMT 29 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, February 29 (ATA)—Albanian President Sali Berisha received today at 0930 AM the delegation of the Greek Party "New Democracy."

Berisha expressed his pleasure about the continuous improvement of bilateral relations. He expressed his conviction on the bright prospects of friendship and cooperation.

The president said he was really interested and valuated as very important the upcoming visit of Greek President Stefanopoulos, whom he declared to be in good personal terms with.

Bilateral cooperation is in the interest not only of our countries but in the interests of peace and stability in the region. The support Greek people and government have offered to Albanian emigrants is an important factor in the friendship between our peoples and countries.

The talk concentrated in the increasing and strengthening of cooperation between Albania and Greece in all fields including economy, banking, inciting of Greek investments in Albania, etc.

Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi met this morning with the delegation of the Greek "New Democracy" Party, headed by the international secretary of this party, Marieta Koutsikou, the Premier's Press Office reports.

Meksi familiarised the guests with the latest political and economic developments in Albania and dwelt on the relations between the two countries.

Both sides shared the same view regarding the development of the Albanian-Greek relations and stressed the importance of the coming visit of Greek President Stefanopoulos to Tirana.

They also discussed issues including legalisation of Albanian immigrants in Greece, facilitation of citizens' communication and movement to both countries, strengthening of economic cooperation, opening of joint banks or Greek private ones in Albania, and treatment of minorities.

They also discussed Greece's support to Albania's full integration in Europe.

The two sides showed understanding on the issues treated and appreciated the very good climate of the existing relations between the two countries.

Albania: Greek Minority School in Dropull Set Afire

AU0303161196 Tirana ATA in English 1243 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, March 1 (ATA)—An eight year school in the Frashtan village of Dropull, a zone where a good part of the Greek minority in Albania lives, was set on fire on Thursday [29 February], sources of the Prosecutor's Office of Gjirokaster, southern Albania, report.

The newspaper ALBANIA and KOHA JONE point out that the causes of the fire were not natural or accidental. "The school's burning has been carried out by certain persons," the papers say.

The school, built since 1936, is one of the oldest in the district. It was the only school in the minority area which taught Albanian language until 1990 because the inhabitants of the Frashtan village, until this time, did not know Greek.

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Bulgaria: Lilov Criticizes Cabinet, Demands Changes

AU0403142096 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 28 Feb 96 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Lilov: BSP Has Failed To Provide a Strong Democratic Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lovech-Sofia (DEMOKRATSIYA)—The BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] strategist Aleksandur Lilov has officially called for changes in Videnov's cabinet. At a news conference in Lovech, the town of the lamb baron Nikolaycho Krivoshiev, the former leader of the 100-year-old party declared that the government needs major personnel changes. The Left has failed to give Bulgaria a strong democratic government, Lilov said. In his view, one cannot describe the Socialist rule during the last year as a failure, because Videnov has not yet exhausted his potential as party and government leader. Despite this, the strategist stressed that the Socialist Party needs "a democratic administration."

Aleksandur Lilov and his wing in the BSP insist on the removal of Deputy Prime Minister Rumen Gechev, Interior Minister Lyubomir Nachev, Transport Minister Stamen Stamenov, and Environment Minister Georgi Georgiev. The strategist reportedly also has serious reservations about the work of Health Minister Mimi Vitkova-Petkova and Labor Minister Mincho Koralski, according to a source in BSP headquarters. According to this source, Lilov is planning a massed attack on the prime minister, his protege, during the plenum on the first year's work of the BSP government scheduled for 10 March.

Bulgaria: BSP Official on Party's Waning Popularity

AU0403145896 Sofia 24 CHASA in Bulgarian 28 Feb 96 p 5

[Article by Iva Petroni: "BSP Is Losing Positions, a Socialist Strategist Claims"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a memorandum addressed to the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] Executive Bureau, Miroslav Popov [member of BSP Supreme Council] writes that the BSP's political positions have apparently deteriorated since the local elections. The Socialist leaders are to consider the memorandum on 4 March.

Popov has established that there is increasing dissatisfaction within the party with the government's actions and the squabbling between the leaders. At present, people do not believe that the government can control crime, the document claims. According to Popov, "The attack against Orion may be regarded as successful mostly by those who organized it." Former Interior Ministry officials reportedly occupy high administrative posts, and Popov believes that an attack is in the offing against former and new employees of the special services occupying posts in the Council of Ministers and elsewhere in the administration.

The scandals involving the BZPB [Bulgarian Agricultural and Industrial Bank] and the BZK [Agricultural Credit Bank] have also allegedly helped to worsen the situation. The two banks are said to be linked with certain factions inside the BSP, and the conflict has developed into an intraparty cataclysm.

Popov believes that the manner in which the party denies existing problems, such as the grain crisis, the Orion affair, scandalous associations, and personnel blunders is becoming increasingly unacceptable.

According to Popov, the BSP should put a stop to the attempts to establish connections between the party and certain groupings and also frustrate the desire of certain businessmen to identify themselves with the party. He believes that this is the only way to prevent the acceptance of the "Red business" thesis. Those persons connected with Orion should give personal explanations to the public and the party. Popov recommends that they respond through the media and initiate libel suits. As soon as they have done this, the party should defend them.

The memorandum also calls for an immediate warming of relations between BSP headquarters and the DUMA newspaper.

Bulgaria: Commentary on Coming BSP Plenum

AU0403153696 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 1 Mar 96 p 16

[Commentary by Rumyana Strugarova: "Ministers or the Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the advent of the extremely important—for the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]—plenum on the Left's first year in government, diverse messages are winging their way to the BSP headquarters. It is evident that the tension inside the party and the dissatisfaction among the broad public must be assuaged by finding scapegoats. The big question in this trial of strength within the Socialist elite is whether a handful of ministers will be picked out as sacrificial lambs, or whether an ambiguous analysis will be offered to prove that the party is following the right policies, but difficulties on the way are hampering their implementation.

After Minister Nachev's incapability to head the Interior Ministry became an established public fact, the BSP

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commission charged with preparing the report on the Interior Ministry found itself obliged to acknowledge this. The party's Agricultural Commission also reached similar conclusions about the agricultural minister, incidentally using the same arguments that they employed in attacking his predecessor.

What the two ministers share in common is that both Nachev and Shivarov continue to serve as cabinet members, as a result of a compromise in personnel policy. When he announces their failure, the prime minister will inevitably be compelled to admit his own failure, in that the Socialist government has come to grief on the problems that are most important for the BSP's public image. However, this fact may protect the cabinet, because more important than the personal drama of any minister are the party and economic motives that placed him in his official post.

Bulgaria: National Bank Raises Base Interest Rate

AU0403182896 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Report by Lyubomir Stoimenov]

[FBIS Translated Text] At an extraordinary meeting today, the Board of Governors of the Bulgarian National Bank [BNB] decided to raise the base interest rate by 7 percent from its previous level of 42 percent [per annum]. According to BNB Governor Lyubomir Filipov, the main reason for the decision is the state of the foreign exchange market.

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Czech Republic: Defense Minister Cited After Visit to U.S.

LD0403142296 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1100 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On his arrival home from the United States, Defense Minister Vilem Holan gave an assessment of the significance of his five-day trip. Pavel Rijacek telephoned this report from [Prague's] Ruzyne Airport:

[Rijacek] Ales Dolezal, the minister's adviser, said that the trip was a turning point. The minister's assessment was more sober, although what he said clearly indicates that our discussions about joining NATO switched from formal debates to purely technical levels and to specific implementation measures during which nobody any longer questions our joining the alliance.

The minister said that the Americans have a very optimistic view of our readiness to join NATO. However, he did not cite what was said in particular about this.

While in the United States, Vilem Holan did not meet with any company representatives and did not bring back any specific pledges regarding supplies for the Czech Army. Although further discussions, including an option to purchase U.S.-made F-16 planes, took place during the trip, Vilem Holan declined to comment on the details.

Speaking about the situation in our Air Force, he said that something will definitely have to be done as soon as possible. Taking any measure would be preferable to maintaining the present situation, he said.

Czech Republic: Klaus Optimistic About Czech-FRY Relations

LD0403185096 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus is visiting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Martin Dorazin, our special correspondent in the prime minister's entourage, reports:

[Dorazin] Vaclav Klaus today met FRY Prime Minister Radoje Kontic and Milos Radulovic, the chairman of the Chamber of the Republics. Their talks were dominated by the situation on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

[Begin Klaus recording] Being myself, I naturally always tend to look more toward the future than back into the past. This is why I strongly recommended to the Yugoslav side to adopt this approach because, as long as we do not move away from what was said in the past [words indistinct]—as I said, the past cannot be won, the future can. This is the approach we have always adopted when faced with our Czech-Slovak problems, and I think it has worked really well. [end recording]

[Dorazin] They also discussed bilateral cooperation between the Czech Republic and the FRY.

[Begin Klaus recording] In my view, the decisive aspect is the renewal of our relations that were for several years more or less broken off. This step is clearly a good thing. Yugoslavia has always been our traditional partner and a very friendly country. It is necessary to bridge this recently created gap, and I think both sides are interested in doing so. I think that at present, with sanctions against Yugoslavia lifted, we have a great opportunity to bridge this gap. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Czech Republic: Foreign Minister on 2-Day Visit to Moscow

LD0403112196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 4 Mar 96

[By diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Valiyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 March (ITAR-TASS)—The foreign minister of the Czech Republic, Josef Zieleniec, arrived today in Moscow on a two-day working visit.

In the Russian capital, the Czech foreign minister will be meeting the speaker of the State Duma, Gennadiy Seleznev, on the same day and then will have a brief meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

On Tuesday, Josef Zieleniec will hold talks with his Russian counterpart, Yevgeniy Primakov, with whom he will sign an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the fields of culture, science, and education. The ministers will also be exchanging documents on ratification by their respective parliaments of the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic. This document was concluded on 26 August 1993.

Moscow and Prague hold different views on the system of European security. Russia is against the expansion of NATO eastward, and the Czech Republic firmly wants to become a member of the bloc.

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Slovakia: Poll Results on Support for EU, NATO

AU0403191996 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 1 Mar 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Juraj Alner: "Slovak Public's Interest in EU Is Growing, Interest in NATO Is Not"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest public opinion survey, published by the Slovak Statistical Office yesterday, 65 percent of those polled consider entry into the EU necessary, only 15 percent consider it unnecessary, and 20 percent do not have a clear-cut opinion. Half a year ago, only 52 percent advocated entry, 17 percent were opposed, while almost one in three respondents (31 percent) was unable to reply. This testifies to the success of the campaign promoting the foreign policy orientation of the Slovak Republic. Positive attitude toward the EU grows with education (77 percent of those polled with university education and 71 percent with secondary education support entry), it is shared by entrepreneurs (72 percent), white-collar workers (73 percent), and citizens in the 40-49 age bracket. Entry into the EU meets with opposition, in particular, among Bratislava residents (23 percent) and among people between 50 and 59 (22 percent).

Survey of the public's interest in joining NATO shows the opposite trend: Over the last three years, the share of those who advocate entry declined from 49 to 43 percent, while the share of those who oppose it increased from 29 to 33 percent. The share of indecisive respondents has also slightly increased (from 22 to 24 percent).

Public Opinion on Slovak Republic's Entry Into NATO

	Percent
Necessary	20
Rather necessary	23
Rather unnecessary	16
Unnecessary	17
Do not know	24

[Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 1 March on page 2 carries a 200-word report by TASR on the above poll, which specifies that it was conducted "by the Institute for Public Opinion Research [IVVM] operating under the Slovak Statistical Office in January" and involved 1,236 respondents. The report states: "According to the IVVM, the need for Slovak Republic's NATO membership is realized mostly by young people between 18 and 24 (51 percent) and by people in the 40-49 age bracket (49 percent). The idea of the Slovak Republic's regular NATO membership met with above-average support also among respondents with higher education (it is supported by 56 percent of university graduates and 49 percent of secondary school graduates), among entrepreneurs (54 percent), among white-collar workers (49 percent), and among respondents of Hungarian nationality (59 percent). The dominant group of respondents with a negative attitude toward NATO membership were persons between 50 and 59 (44 percent)."]

Slovakia: Schenk Denies Plan To Appoint Lexa Ambassador

AU0503142796 Bratislava SME in Slovak 2 Mar 96 p 2

[CTK report: "According to Juraj Schenk, the Report That Ivan Lexa Will Become Ambassador Is 100-Percent Misinformation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—Minister of Foreign Affairs Juraj Schenk has vigorously denied reports that secret service chief Ivan Lexa is to become ambassador to Moscow. According to Schenk, the Slovak press, in which this piece of information appeared, "contains 90 to 95 percent of misinformation, in this but also in many other matters. This is 100 percent misinformation. We hold the work of Roman Paldan (the Slovak Republic's present ambassador to Russia—editor's note) in great esteem," the minister said in reply to journalists' questions concerning speculations about Ivan Lexa's dismissal from the post of Slovak Information Service director and his alleged departure for the post of ambassador in Russia.

Slovakia: Report Suggests Kovac's Son Identified Kidnappers

AU0403162496 Bratislava SME in Slovak 1 Mar 96 p 2

[Article by "pt": "M. Kovac Jr. Identified Kidnappers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—According to information available to the daily SME, while he was being questioned by investigator J. Ciz, in the presence of overseeing prosecutor R. Vlachovsky, M. Kovac Jr. identified several participants in the assault on him and his subsequent abduction abroad. The interrogation was conducted in Vienna on the day when the Austrian Higher Provincial Court ruled on the inadmissibility of the request for M. Kovac Jr.'s extradition to Germany. Among those whom the president's son identified on the basis of submitted photographs are persons whom Major P. Vacok, second investigator of the case, had

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charged with participation in the abduction of M. Kovac Jr. As we have managed to ascertain from circles close to the police, the highest representatives of the government coalition are interested in Kovac Jr. being taken into custody in connection with the Technopol case. This would thwart investigator Ciz's access to M. Kovac Jr., who could identify further accomplices in the kidnapping.

[On the same day, on page 1, Bratislava SME in Slovak carries a 250-word report by "pt" entitled "Police Detained Marian K., Charged in the Technopol Case, on the Basis of Secret Witness's Testimony." The report states that Marian K., business partner of Michal Kovac Jr. and fellow suspect in the Technopol fraud case, was "detained" on 29 February "on the basis of the testimony of a secret witness who testified that Marian K. had incited him to give false testimony."]

Slovakia: Coexistence Protests Theater Director's Dismissal

AU0403164796 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 1 Mar 96 p 3

[Report by TASR: "Coexistence Protest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava/Kosice—The Coexistence Movement considers the recent dismissal of Peter Kolar from the post of director of the Hungarian regional theater Thalia in Kosice to be "another arrogant step by Minister of Culture Ivan Hudec." "We are convinced that Peter Kolar's sin was the successful operation of the theater in the region and friendly relations with theaters in the Hungarian Republic. The aim of his dismissal was to destroy or at least weaken another bastion of Hungarian culture in Slovakia," the Coexistence Movement stressed in the conclusion of its statement.

Slovakia: New PRAVDA Chief Editor Appointed

AU0403172396

[FBIS Report] Slovak newspapers on 1 March publish a number of reports on the fourth change in the post of Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak editor in chief in 11 months.

Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 1 March on page 1, under the headline "Change of Chief Editor," carries the following report by "PA": "The Board of Directors of the PEREX shareholding company appointed Pavol Minarik (44) as new PRAVDA editor in chief. He joined our newspaper in 1975. Later, he worked several years as PRAVDA and RUDE PRAVO correspondent in Poland. Most recently, he was permanent correspondent of the Prague daily PRAVO in Slovakia. Prior to Minarik's appointment, the PEREX Board of Directors complied with Vladimir Jancura's request to be released from the post of editor in chief of the independent daily PRAVDA. The Board of Directors thanked him for his work in the difficult period of changes in the organizational structure of the editorial office and for his participation in the newspaper's innovation, including its graphic layout. Emil Polak, deputy editor in chief, is also leaving his post at his own request. The PEREX Board of Directors also thanked him for his share in the creation of the newspaper. Both Vladimir Jancura and Emil Polak will continue working in the PRAVDA editorial office."

Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 1 March on page 2 carries a 150-word report by Ivan Samel entitled "Changes in PRAVDA Management." The report states: "Pavol Minarik is the fourth PRAVDA editor in chief in the course of less than one year. Following the decision of the general meeting of PEREX shareholders of 3 April 1995 to sell the majority stake of shares to Harvardska Investicna Spolocnost [Harvard Investment Company], Peter Sitanyi, who headed the editorial office since 1989, was replaced in the post of editor in chief in May 1995 by Marian Lesko. After only a month, Lesko resigned because of disagreements with the company's Board of Directors over the management of the editorial office. Pavol Minarik said that he wanted the newspaper to retain its independence and its present shape. Vladimir Jancura remains PRAVDA editor, while commentator Marian Lesko asked to have his contract of employment terminated."

Bratislava SME in Slovak on 1 March on page 3 carries a 100-word report by "jo, CTK" entitled "New Chief Editor of Daily PRAVDA." The report includes the following passage: "According to information we have managed to obtain, a total of 12 PRAVDA editors have given notice. However, most notices are not directly related to the change in the post of editor in chief. Yet, according to a source that did not wish to be named, PRAVDA commentator Marian Lesko's notice is connected with Pavol Minarik's taking up the post."

Slovakia: Report Views Success of Bozena Mine Detector

AU0403183896 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 1 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Eva Laukova: "Bozena Mine Detector From ZTS Krupina Succeeds in the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to UN statistics, between 65 million and 110 million mines have been laid in 62 countries worldwide. The statistics also show the rate of one dead mine specialist for every 5,000 destroyed mines. They also are victims to the exploding remnants of local wars, and even of World War II.

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Here, the Slovaks, and the ZTS [Heavy Engineering Works] Krupina state enterprise in particular, bring help through the unique mine-clearing equipment Bozena that is winning on world markets. It is intended for mine clearing in peacetime conditions and is a piece of equipment that is unique in the world.

Krupina is launching production of the first series this year. Most recently, Angola has expressed its interest in Bozena—the Angolan Acting Defense Minister P. Sebastian is currently visiting Slovakia and also visited ZTS Krupina yesterday. Africa, with 18 to 30 million mines in 18 countries, is the most mine-ridden continent. Angola, Somalia, and Mozambique hold an infamous first place in this respect.

The United Nations has 18 units of engineers. If they were all deployed, however, in minesweeping operations using the traditional methods, they would clear only 20 percent of the mines by 4000 A.D. It is interesting in this respect that the UN conference on mine clearing, recently held in Geneva, did not lead to any agreement between the participating countries (the United Nations was to provide $150 million for the planned global mine clearing). The convention was not signed, among others, by Russia and China.

How did the mine detector get the name Bozena? ZTS Krupina Director Jan Butkovsky recalls: "When we tested the detector in the former Yugoslavia, it was necessary to give it a name. The commander in chief of the Slovak UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] unit in Croatia had a look at the calendar and said: 'It is Bozena's Day today, so let us call it Bozena.'"

The producers in Krupina have gradually improved Bozena so that now clearing shoe mines is like cracking nuts for Bozena. The manufacturers also guarantee that Bozena will withstand the detonation of at least 8 antitank mines. The Bozena mine detecting and clearing system weighs 5.5 metric tons. It consists of a loader manufactured at the factory, on which the mine-clearing equipment is attached, and the operator's cabin must be added and transport pallets. The mine-clearing tool flails the ground and, when it hits a mine, the equipment retreats, and an explosion occurs. The shock wave flies in the air. The operator is out of any danger, as he operates Bozena from the cabin some 300 meters away.

The Krupina manufacturers first introduced Bozena in 1994 at the first Slovak exhibition of the military equipment with international participation IDET '94. The then Defense Minister Pavol Kanis was a harbinger of doom at the time: "I would not want to see this flying in the air." Bozena has not flown, however; it only jumps up about 15 centimeters after a detonation. After any major damage, it is overhauled: Its operation and hardware are tested and all shortcomings are removed.

"We equipped the Slovak Army with Bozena last year and it has been also used by the Slovak UNPROFOR unit in Croatia," director Butkovsky said, and added: "The Czech Republic, Canada, and most recently Angola have expressed their interest, and we are also negotiating with other countries. We signed an agreement with the Armex company on sales representation in agreed territories. The company is one of our distributors."

The value of mine-detector production should reach about 15 percent (about 66 million korunas [Sk]) of ZTS Krupina's total output (more than Sk500 million) this year. The seemingly "minute" production is, however, a specialty of the manufacturer, and its price guarantees a good return from its sales.

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Hungary: New MDF Chairman Views Prospects

AU0403184796 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 4 Mar 96 p 4

[Interview with newly elected MDF Chairman Sandor Lezsak by Zsolt Nemeth; place and date not given: "The MDF Must Strengthen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nemeth] Mr. Lezsak, you regard the creation of the Alliance for the MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] as the first major task. What steps do you have to take for this?

[Lezsak] Obviously, this alliance will emerge within the party. Returning home, the delegates will polish the renewing policy with the members of their organizations and the elected officials on the basis of the program booklet entitled "What Next, Hungary?" There is the question, however, to what extent those politicians who failed to gain the confidence of the majority of delegates at the National Meeting will want to cooperate with us in the future. At a meeting of the MDF Board at the beginning of January, Ivan Szabo, the former MDF executive chairman, formulated his desire, namely that both he and I should declare teams, name the people with whom we want to work, and create a clear situation. I agreed with this, and I named a few among the first of our 25,000 members at Godollo. I also said then that, irrespective of this, naturally I am also capable of cooperating with others for the sake of the party. It seems that Ivan Szabo and his entourage was unable to take a similar step, because they no longer wanted to participate in the race for National Committee membership. I understand their resignation, and I wish them high-level public activity in the parliamentary group or in the sphere of another political force.

[Nemeth] You set the creation of the Alliance for Hungary as your second task. In what kind of a political environment must the MDF and the opposition find themselves?

[Lezsak] First of all, the MDF must be strengthened. No matter how good a program and outstanding experts it has, a quarrelsome party cannot be attractive for the public. We must create opposition solidarity in the center right, first of all among the parliamentary parties. This means that we should refrain from accusing one another; instead, we should do our work, because our real opponents are the Hungarian Socialist Party and the Alliance of Free Democrats. Those in the opposition can, at most, be rivals, but their struggle can only be calm and responsible. We must preserve Hungary's stability, and we must fulfill the requirements of a constitutional state. Opposition solidarity does not mean an alliance. We mean political tolerance by this.

[Nemeth] Gyorgy Giczy, chairman of the Christian Democratic People's Party [KDNP] and KDNP Executive Chairman Tibor Fuzessy probably called on you in this spirit.

[Lezsak] They both showed that they regard us as their natural allies. It is in the fundamental interest of both parties to become stronger. I also spoke about this at the recent National Meeting and I also declared that I envisage concrete contacts with the Federation of Young Democrats as well.

[Nemeth] What contacts do you plan to develop with the Independent Smallholders' Party?

[Lezsak] All of us believe that we must honor the smallholder traditions. At the same time, we must also acknowledge that the FKGP is led by Jozsef Torgyan today. His popularity is widespread, and it is natural that we must maintain a dialogue with every partner that might represent value for the MDF. However, we must also strive for good relations with the National Federation of Farmers, the agricultural chambers, and other professional organizations, especially with those willing to represent the interests of farmers, generally of people who own property.

[Nemeth] Will your election as chairman and the composition of the new National Committee affect the activity of the MDF group in Parliament and its political style?

[Lezsak] Let me quote the former executive chairman, Ivan Szabo who, when asked about the future, said that one should ask the fortune tellers. But, seriously, it is very hard to foresee the future.

[Nemeth] As far as I know, as a first measure, you wrote letters to the domestic and foreign parties and political forces close to the MDF....

[Lezsak] Yes, we sent letters to the heads of Christian-Conservative parties and Hungarian political leaders in neighboring countries. We assured them of our cooperation and the broadening of our contacts.

Hungary: New Oppostion Party To Cooperate With MDF

LD0403174396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1500 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The group that has split from the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and that is led by Ivan Szabo will form a new party, the Hungarian Democratic People's Party [MDNP]. Attila Kert reports:

[Kert] An orderly separation and peaceful coexistence—this is the maximum of what Sandor Lezsak [new MDF

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chairman] and Ivan Szabo could agree on at their tete-a-tete talks held at noon today. During their talks, Ivan Szabo raised the possibility that representatives defeated at the MDF congress over 2-3 March would form a relatively independent platform within the MDF. Since this was unacceptable for Sandor Lezsak—at least under the terms of Szabo and his supporters—the only question left was the division of party infrastructure, or perhaps, party assets.

The two politicians agreed that the split would be carried out under the most peaceful circumstances, without any quarel, and following this the two parties would cooperate as allies [Hungarian: szoevetseges].

MDF members will decide within a day which parliamentary group they will join; more precisely, whether they will stay in the Lezsak-led MDF parliamentary group, or join the parliamentary group of the emerging MDNP.

The future party's organizers stress that they have not decided on any posts; this will only take place after the formal establishment of the party.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the future party, Ivan Szabo has started to hold intensive talks. At 1400 hours this afternoon, he met Viktor Orban, chairman of the Federation of Young Democrats-Hungarian Civic Party [FIDESZ-MPP], and while we are on the air, he is holding coordination talks with Gyorgy Giczy, chairman of the Christian Democratic People's Party [KDNP].

The split will significantly change the parliamentary structure as well. The MDF parliamentary group, which has so far been the strongest opposition group, and the MDNP, which is expected to be formed this week, will be the two smallest groups in parliament, while the Independent Smallholders' Party [FKGP] will become the strongest parliamentary opposition party from now on.

Hungary: Szabo's Supporters Issue Statement on MDF

AU0403173596 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 4 Mar 96 p 4

["Text" of political statement by supporters of Ivan Szabo, former leader of the Hungarian Democratic Forum's parliamentary group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The life of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] has been accompanied by a struggle between the modern politics of a people's party in a European sense, and the radical and populist ideas. [Late chairman] Jozsef Antall took the politics of moderation, patience, and cooperation to success in the MDF and in Hungary. We consider this to be the MDF's original program, which has been weakened and often neutralized by a series of renewing attacks. We cannot watch idly the sober-minded center losing its political strength and representation. We, signatories of this statement, became members of the MDF in the belief and conviction that we would serve Hungarian society, which desires transformation and renewal and which changed the previous regime, by keeping our most noble political traditions in unity. The civic value system which accepts the popular thought, and modern Christian democracy which also embraces national liberalism and euro-atlantic direction, are equally important for us. We must realize that we have not managed to keep the MDF in this direction. We jointly express our support for these politics and jointly act in the interest of asserting these politics. We establish new possibilities for politics which represent and implement our beliefs and values. We are convinced that it is only possible to serve the average man, who is defenseless against demagogy and the manipulations of the rulers' overt power, through the politics of a people's party. Together with Jozsef Eotvos [politician in past century], we profess: "Commitments that are higher than the ones owed to one's party also exist in civic life."

Hungary: Opposition Responds to Split in MDF

LD0403204396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The opposition parties are of the view that following the split in the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] chances for cooperation within the opposition have improved. Here is Gyorgy Giczy, chairman of the Christian Democratic People's Party [KDNP].

[Begin Giczy recording] I think it is not expedient to form a new party in today's Hungarian political life. However, if it leads to the settlement of political life, that is, if there is a political force which does not seem to have found its party preference but now it is finding that, then we all should be happy. [end recording]

Jozsef Torgyan, chairman of the Independent Smallholders' Party [FKGP], said the new party would strengthen the liberal side. To counterbalance this the national-conservative parties have to cooperate more closely. By this, Torgyan meant KDNP, FKGP and the part which remained of MDF. He added that FIDESZ [Federation of Young Democrats-Hungarian Civic Party] was at crossroads and it had to decide whether it would side with the liberals or the conservatives.

A reply from FIDESZ. You can hear Chairman Viktor Orban.

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[Begin Orban recording] I think the basis for cooperation is better now than before the MDF conference. MDF was in a state of paralysis because of internal differences. The clarifying debates will create a new situation. I think the political field between the Alliance of Free Democrats and FKGP, which we can call the political home of the center-right, can be integrated, united today easier than before. [end recording]

Hungary: Editorial Assesses Changes in MDF

AU0403145396 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 4 Mar 96 p 3

[Unattributed editorial: "Breaking Away: A Split?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We know what has ended, but we do not exactly know what has been started.

With the 2 March voting, the story of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] has ended, at least in the form established by the late Jozsef Antall: "Antall has been removed from it." Antall bore the value systems of liberalism, Christian democracy, and national tradition in mind; extremism was alien to him. Using West European terminology, he saw the party as a gathering point of center right politics. This seems to have ended: A group that considers a party based on a narrower footing to be more competitive and efficient has the majority. The Lakitelek heritage is a code term that also—or mainly—calls into mind that Antall had not been present in Lakitelek. Ivan Szabo, Imre Konya, Gyorgy Rasko, Gyorgy Szabad, and others have left because it was made clear to them already weeks ago that the new team—if it wins—wants a power takeover in the party. This is what the victory of the Lezsak-Boross line meant. It is probably not by chance that those members—including Erzsebet Pusztai and Gyorgy Szabad, who was hissed at amidst strong shouted comments—have been kept out of the leadership who, in opposition, have been most constructive in the spirit of Antall's heritage, and whose intellectual performance has commanded respect.... While they wish to open toward the Hungarian Justice and Life Party's [MIEP] membership and toward the Independent Smallholders Party [FKGP] which has been expelled from the community of European conservative parties....

Lezsak now speaks more precisely than before: They only need to open toward the membership rather than toward Csurka [MIEP chairman], and the same stands for Torgyan [FKGP chairman]. Of course, one need not be a doctor of political sciences to know with what kind of politics one can lure away Csurka's and Torgyan's supporters. Naturally, it is to be seen how Lezsak, Gemesi, and Boross can compete with the head of the Hungarian Way [Csurka] and the FKGP's one-man center. It is also to be seen if events might follow a reversed logic compared to what they are thinking. Will Torgyan perhaps take away voters from Lezsak? After all, he must know the reason he welcomed Ivan Szabo's defeat with such a burst of enthusiasm.

What is beginning now is the activity of the Hungarian opposition in a "new deal." The details are unclear. However, naturally, the MDF will continue to function, but this is not the same MDF as before. The party of Lezsak and Boross can trust that the season for a "right turn" is coming, but they have become much weaker in Parliament: According to indications—if everyone keeps to his decision—they might lose as many as half the deputies. To remain with the beginnings: Those who have been defeated in the MDF and who wish to conduct opposition politics as members of a center party, insisting on keeping their values, are starting their politics in new circumstances. To use the words of Antall's son: "If his political heritage is eliminated in the MDF, then those people who were attached to this will have to start something new somewhere else."

Finally, the issue has an aspect pointing further than the above. The change of the regime formed a structure in Hungarian politics that has been challenged by the past years: New markers have been planted. The "group of 36" left the FKGP, Csurka was ousted from the MDF, and this third one seems to have been the most significant break so far. The continuation is still unpredictable.

Hungary: Party Leader Acquitted of Racial Hatred Charge

LD0403220796 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1830 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Budapest Court has acquitted Albert Szabo, chairman of the World National People's Rule Party and his five colleagues who were accused of inciting racial hatred and the use of dictatorship symbols banned by law. Albert Szabo and his followers were accused for their statements made at meetings and briefings organized by the World National People's Rule Party.

Earlier a court found the indictment unsuitable for procedures. However, at the request of the prosecutor the High Court ruled that the indictment should be maintained and procedures should start.

According to the charges, at their party meetings and press briefings, Albert Szabo and his companions said, among other things, that the arrow cross man [nyilasok] had not shot Jews and dumped them in the River Danube, and that the aim of the Jews was to discredit the Hungarian nation.

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Szabo and his companions did not deny that these statement had been made and also admitted that, in their view, Ferenc Szalasi was the last legal head of government before Jozsef Antall.

Reading out the reasons for the acquittal, Judge Laszlo Szebeni said that they did not have to adopt a position regarding the correctness of the defendants' statements, but whether or not they incited hatred.

[Begin Szebeni recording] According to the court's position, the examination of historical events, the origin of people playing leading roles in it, and the reasons and consequences of these events, would be a political assessment, and this penal procedure cannot be either the aim or task of this assessment. [end recording]

The judge said that the notion of anti-Semitism has not been defined. A statement of any significance about Jewish people, which has been expressed time and again since ancient times, could be included in it. However, the law can only intervene in the most serious cases against it, the judge said. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the indictment, the judge said that there were no precise quotations in it, and there was too much subjective selectivity in it. In this connection, the judge quoted the Constitutional Court's ruling on the freedom of speech.

[Begin Szebeni recording] This freedom also applies to thoughts, information, principles, and views which are offensive, shocking, or alarming. [end recording]

The court had to meet two expectations, Laszlo Szebeni said. Here protecting freedom of speech has come into confrontation with the grievances of a community. According to the reasons for the verdict, by the repeated publication of Szalasi's six points, Albert Szabo and his companions carried out an educational task and they cannot be punished for this.

The prosecutor has appealed against the verdict.

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B-H: Zubak Says Federation Problems Could Cause War

AU0503130396 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, March 5 (AFP)—Moslems and Croats could soon return to war if they do not resolve differences that risk blowing apart their fragile federation, the federation leader said in an interview published here Tuesday [5 March].

Kresimir Zubak, who heads the U.S.-backed Moslem-Croat federation, told the Croatian daily SLOBODNA DALMACIJA that the risks of a new conflict in Bosnia were "real."

The federation, set up by Washington in March 1994 ending 11 months of Moslem-Croat fighting, shares Bosnia roughly equally with the Serb Republic carved out in eastern and northern Bosnia by the rebel Bosnian Serbs.

But it has been hampered since its inception by basic differences, Zuback said.

These problems hindering the federation "have to be solved ... because if not... it could lead to a new war," Zubak said.

The president of the federation said there were several regions in Bosnia where relations between Croats and Moslems were already close to conflict.

Zubak's warning of tension in the federation came after former Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, in an interview published in Croatia Monday, lashed out against "extremists" he said were harming the federation

Today the federation looks like "two countries where the extremists from the (Croatian) HDZ [Croatian Democratic Community] and (Moslem) SDA [Party of Democratic Action] have found a common language: Don't touch what belongs to me and I won't touch what belongs to you," Silajdzic said.

B-H: Prime Minister Kapetanovic's Career Detailed

96BA0144B Sarajevo SLOBODNA BOSNA in Serbo-Croatian 12 Jan 96 p 23

[Unattributed article: "Ten Functions of Federal Prime Minister!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new prime minister of the federation government is Izudin Kapetanovic, a doctor of electrical engineering from Tuzla. Dr. Kapetanovic was one of six potential prime ministers nominated by the SDA [Party of Democratic Action] when Dr. Haris Silajdzic resigned from that post last summer.

The party grapevine says that Dr. Kapetanovic was promoted thanks to the vice chairman of the SDA, Edhem Bicakcic, who thus substantially strengthened his "energy lobby" within the SDA (Bicakcic, Kreso, Kapetanovic...). It is interesting that Kapetanovic's candidacy for the post of prime minister was opposed by the SDA's Tuzla Opstina Committee, and that the Cantonal Committee of the SDA supported Kapetanovic's candidacy only after pressure was exerted from Sarajevo.

Indeed the post of prime minister is the 10th position in a row that Dr. Kapetanovic currently holds. He has had the following responsibilities to date: associate professor at the School of Electrical Engineering in Tuzla, dean of the School of Electrical Engineering in Tuzla, member of the Science Council of the University of Tuzla, director of the Tuzla Electric Power Distribution Network, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association of Bosniak Intellectuals of Tuzla, member of the Executive Committee of the SDA of Bosnia-Herzegovina, member of the Personnel Commission of the SDA of Bosnia-Herzegovina, economic advisor to the governor of Tuzla-Podrina Canton, and chairman of the Management Board of the SODA SO holding company.

With 10 positions Dr. Izudin Kapetanovic has come very close to his colleague Bicakcic in terms of the number of important positions that he has held in the party, the economy, sports, chess....

B-H: Interior Minister on Mostar, IFOR Behavior

AU0403174996 Sarajevo LJILJAN in Serbo-Croatian 28 Feb 96 pp 5-6

[Interview with Avdo Hebib, interior minister of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Zehrudin Isakovic; place and date not given: "The President Has Informed Me From the Hospital That We Should Preserve Our Dignity and Not Allow Any Incidents"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Isakovic] You have been in Mostar. What is the latest information?

[Hebib] According to the Rome agreement, mixed patrols should be formed consisting of police from the EU, the Republic of Croatia, and the west and the east bank [of the Neretva River]. The deadline for the formation of these patrols was 1200 on 20 February. It was extended by three and a half hours, however. On behalf of our side I insisted on not moving the deadline, since I did not think there were any reasons for doing so. Mr. Koschnick supported me in this. He wanted the patrols to start working in the "district zone" first. He said that it was better to introduce them gradually than

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to form patrols for the whole town at once. I criticized this since 20 February was the first day of the Bayram holiday and it is customary to visit relatives on that day. Patrols are walking around the whole town now and there is no further need to restrict them to the "district zone" only because the problems have been occurring predominantly outside this zone. There were some incidents on the right bank of the Neretva on the first day. Eleven people were arrested. Three men were physically maltreated. One of our vehicles was shot at, but no one was wounded. We lodged a protest with the EU and the citizens were allowed home. I have to say that since then there have been no serious incidents. All obstructions have been removed from the roads. I personally inspected some of the roads in the earlier demarcation zone.

[Isakovic] How is the organization of the Federation police developing?

[Hebib] It is characterized by a large number of unresolved matters that should be resolved by the Constituent Assembly and the Federation Government. The police are a mechanism that must be unitary and have the complete legal basis for their unitary functioning. There are still many unresolved matters, however. At the level of the Federation, for example, we have not adopted the Federation flag, its coat of arms, or a joint police uniform. I hope that this matter will be resolved successfully soon. The police are wearing two different uniforms in the Federation now. In the territory formerly under the control of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina they are wearing an olive green uniform and dark blue in territory formerly controlled by the Croatian Defense Council. The latter is identical to the uniform of the Croatian police, with the Croatian coat of arms, which is more than a merely formal matter. We shall have to establish a unitary system. My deputy is a Croat and we cooperate very well. We are trying to establish a complete communications system now, incorporating all police stations in the Federation. There are still minor legal hurdles, but we are successful in overcoming this legal sluggishness in practical life. I received a message from Busovaca last night, for example, about a double murder committed in the territory controlled by the police in blue uniforms and they, naturally, asked the police in green uniforms for help.

[Isakovic] Can you comment on the arrest of the Iranian choir in Jajce?

[Hebib] I was informed about it immediately. I was in Mostar at the time. It concerns a group of singers from Iran, who gave a guest performance during the Bayram holiday there. I do not think that such things are necessary and this should not have happened. Since it happened in Jajce, I intervened together with my deputy in the police station in charge. It was explained to me that it was not done by the civilian police from Jajce. I was told that it may have been done by the Croatian Defense Council police, which we are not in charge of. Regardless of who did it, it is unacceptable, since this was a group of people whose papers were in order and who were on a cultural mission in Bosnia. There were no reasons to stop them, let alone arrest them. I am pleased that everything ended with their release. In connection with this matter there is a very problematic phenomenon, however, which should be solved on some other levels. A large number of Iranians and foreigners from the Islamic world in general have lately been treated casually and brutally, especially by IFOR [Implementation Force] units. There are several cases of full-time students from Islamic countries, who were trying to get to Kiseljak, being arrested and maltreated, although they had proper documents. I think that the behavior toward citizens of Islamic countries, who have always been coming here in large numbers and who will certainly be coming in the future too, will have to change, especially in certain structures such as the Croatian Defense Council and IFOR. Incidents should be prohibited and no one's police should have "easy access" to these citizens. We shall protect all citizens who are in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the maximum and provide them with freedom of movement.

[Isakovic] After everything is finally established, what will the relationship be between the police forces of the Serb entity and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina? Are they two completely separate police forces?

[Hebib] This is a matter that has not been resolved yet. It can hardly be predicted what the relationship between them will be. I can only reiterate that some kind of relationship and a relatively close cooperation will have to be established regarding the part of work related to crime, drugs, and similar crimes. We shall try to make our contribution to a possibly quick and successful reintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Isakovic] Let us discuss Vogosca for a moment. Let us assume that some citizens of Serb nationality will want to come back after the first wave of fear. Is there a time limit in this respect, since there are not enough apartments there and there are other practical problems.

[Hebib] There will really be many problems. It is difficult to set a time limit for the return of these people now, but also this option will have to be considered in the next period. I do not think that the attempt to make a complete ethnic separation will be successful. We shall, in any case, work toward a multinational population structure on our territory. Speaking about this problem,

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I would like to tell you about the instructions that I was given by President Izetbegovic, who is, unfortunately, in hospital now. When I sent him the message that we had entered Vogosca, the only message that he sent me from hospital was that we should preserve our dignity and a high professional level, and not allow any incidents toward citizens of any nationality. This task is sacred for us. This is an additional motive and an obligation to carry out this task with responsibility.

B-H: Interior Minister Says Police Ethnically Balanced

AU0403191596 Hanau NOVA BOSNA in Serbo-Croatian 2-3 Mar 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Balanced National Structure of the Federal Police"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 1 March—Avdo Hebib, interior minister in the Government of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, yesterday denied reports by some Croatian newspapers that the national structure of the Federation police is unbalanced with a shortage of police of Croatian nationality.

"My deputy Jozo Leutar and I have composed together lists of police officers in the Federation police. Our proposals were also accepted by representatives of the International Police Force and the Implementation Force, so these implications that there are not enough Croats or Serbs in the Federation police are completely unfounded," Hebib said.

He informed journalists that the ethnic structure was observed while forming the units that entered Vogosca last week, a Sarajevo suburb that used to be under Karadzic's Serbs' control, as well as when the Federation authorities entered Ilijas, Semizovac, and Srednje. "Among the Federation police on duty in Vogosca there are 30 Serbs and eight Croats. Of the 90 police on duty in Ilijas 25 are Serbs, 15 are Croats, and the others are Bosniaks," Hebib pointed out.

He said that the Federation Interior Ministry would be observing the formal criterion on ethnic proportions of the police, although to them it was important that they behaved more as good policemen, doing their work professionally and competently and protecting the citizens, and less as representatives of their respective ethnic groups.

B-H: Tehran: Bosnian PM Expects Financial Aid

LD0303200396 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hasan Muratovic, The prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, arrived in Iran last night. Muratovic urged Iran to help reconstruct Bosnia-Herzegovina. He arrived in Tehran today to hold talks focusing on relations between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iran with Iranian officials. Nermina Mujadzic reports from Tehran. [passage omitted]

[Mujadzic] Bosnia-Herzegovina pays special tribute to the Iranian Government and people for the aid sent to our country so far, Muratovic told numerous journalists at the airport.

The delegation, which includes, in addition to the prime minister, Deputy Foreign Minister Dervisbegovic, National Bank Governor Kasim Omicevic, Mr. Kurtovic, the director of the Institute for Organization and Economy, and Mr. Mesinovic, an adviser in the prime minister's office, had a meeting today with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and First Vice President Habibi. They discussed the economic reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina, bilateral cooperation, and long-term cooperation projects between the two countries. Special attention was paid to the setting up of a fund for the employment of the families of martyrs, people maimed in the war, and demobilized soldiers.

According to information revealed by Prime Minister Muratovic in a special statement for Bosnia-Herzegovina Radio-Television, the talks are under way on the initial sums of money for the fund, which will probably be earmarked from Iran's budget. Iran has vast experience with similar funds it set up after the war, so there is no reason for doubt, the prime minister said. He added that concrete results were expected this evening.

We have learned that the donors' conference, due to take place in Brussels in April, was discussed as well. It was said that two more meetings were to be held: One with the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group and the other with all potential donors in Sarajevo.

The prime minister took the opportunity of the talks with President Rafsanjani to invite the Iranian Government to take part in the reconstruction of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The delegation had meetings with Bosnia-Herzegovina businessmen who have offices in Iran, visited Khamene'i's grave, and held talks with Iranian officials.

B-H: PM Muratovic Concludes Visit to Iran

AU0403204496 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina led by Prime

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Minister Hasan Muratovic concluded its two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning. Here is a report from Tehran by Nermina Mujagic:

[Mujagic] Although local media had announced the first official visit by the prime minister as a three-day visit, the Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation left Teheran for Sarajevo early this morning.

The numerous talks that the Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation had with Iranian officials even after midnight confirm that the new prime minister has been up to his duty. Thus, basics for setting up the fund for employing the disabled, family members of fallen fighters, and demobilized fighters were established late last night. The experts involved needed to realize this idea will continue in Sarajevo, Prime Minister Muratovic said and added that Iranian Vice President Habibi has accepted an invitation to visit Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Iranian Government expressed the desire to help with its experience and material resources in the urgent economic recovery of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two sides agreed to examine the proposal on establishing a joint Iranian-Bosnian bank. It was agreed to carry out maximum cooperation between the two countries' banking systems, as well as cooperation through international organizations through which adequate preparation of the program of reconstruction of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina will be made. Iran will continue to take part in the economic recovery of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the same enthusiasm as before, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani pointed out.

The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will never forget this, Prime Minister Muratovic said prior to departing Teheran.

Early this morning, the Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation was seen off by prominent Iranian officials who assessed our prime minister's visit as extremely useful for furthering economic relations between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iran.

B-H: Prime Minister Muratovic Assesses Tehran Visit

LD0403222796 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening. We will begin with a report on the official visit to Iran by a delegation of the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, headed by Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic. The delegation had talks with the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and First Vice President Hasan Habibi. During the talks, Iran reiterated its readiness to help reconstruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two sides agreed that maximum efforts should be made to punish war criminals, to build confidence and security throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to enable refugees to return to their homes. Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina have always been victims of terrorism on their path to independence and sovereignty, but during the talks the two sides denounced any form of terrorism as the way of achieving goals.

Immediately upon his return to Sarajevo, Prime Minister Muratovic gave an exclusive interview to Bosnia-Herzegovina Radio and TV.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Jadranko Katana] Mr. Prime Minister, you have just landed at Sarajevo airport. What are your first assessments of your visits to Tehran and Vienna.

[Muratovic] We conducted very wide-ranging talks about economic cooperation and our relations under new conditions. We talked, first, about long-term economic cooperation, about Iran's short-term help for Bosnia-Herzegovina, the plan to set up a joint bank, about the opening here in Bosnia-Herzegovina of an Iranian Office for Economic Assistance or rather for implementing their economic assistance plans, and about a number of other issues relating to our further cooperation.

[Katana] These measures, that, well, we received some help before, but what amount are we talking about in this particular case and what kind of assistance?

[Muratovic] The most important thing we talked about is a fund in which Iran will make initial investment and that will be used to create jobs for the families of fallen fighters, invalids, and demobilized fighters. The agreement to this end has been reached, no amount has been mentioned yet, but the Iranian prime minister, or rather its deputy prime minister, will soon arrive here with specific figures to set this in motion. The most important thing is that we have reached an agreement and that joint work can now begin at their institutes.

As for Vienna, we did not do anything special there. We talked to people whom we have known for a long time and with whom we have maintained contacts. [end recording]

B-H: Ambassador to Croatia Discusses Visas, Returnees

AU0403182296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The protocol abolishing visas between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina came into force

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today. For the occasion, Nada al Issa interviewed Kasim Trnka, ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Republic of Croatia:

[Begin recording] [al Issa] Viewed formally and legally, there should be no more problems for citizens of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina entering the Republic of Croatia or travelling through it. It is known that the agreement to abolish visas between the two countries was signed three months ago. However, [word indistinct] not complied with on the ground. The protocol abolishing visas was recently signed in Split as a temporary measure to apply until the agreement on [words indistinct] comes into force.

Will there really be no problems on the ground, either, I asked Dr. Kasim Trnka, ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Republic of Croatia, who has taken part in all talks on the Federation and the relations between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, including those on abolishing visas. [passage indistinct]

[Trnka] This time, it was really the case of a formal and legal act being signed and coming into force on exactly Monday, 4 March, and applying to citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina who have place of abode and residence on the territory of the Federation [words indistinct] regime. Let me supply just one more detail: Regarding those people who will be returning from third countries in an organized way, as the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] bears responsibility for their return, it will be in cooperation with the UNHCR that their collective transit over the territory of the Republic of Croatia will be organized.

I would also like to say that a special protocol will be concluded for citizens of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the territory of the Serb entity, waiting for the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be held and for (?democratic) setup to be established on this territory as well, with which one can with certainty guarantee that the unhindered movement of population between Bosnia-Herzegovina and third countries can be ensured on this territory as well. Thus, we have been taking care of all citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but, owing to the current political realities, this applies only to the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina who have a place of abode and residence or who are temporarily staying on the territory of the Federation, that is, those people who for whatever reason—ethnic cleansing or whatever—have moved from the Serb entity to the territory of the Federation, that is, they have residence. They also have the opportunity of [words indistinct]. It is not only about returning, but also about travelling in either direction.

[al Issa] [words indistinct] in contact with refugees and expellees who are applying from third countries and asking what it means that this applies only to the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina who are from the territory of the Federation. For instance, [words indistinct] as a refugee abroad and is not from the territory of the Federation.

[Trnka] Now, that is, until the elections, they will, unfortunately, have to contact the Croatian Embassy and apply for a visa, that is, a transit document for the territory of the Republic of Croatia. If it is a collective return, [words indistinct] Serb entity, it will be arranged, as the UNHCR will arrange it, generally through agreements between Bosnia-Herzegovina and a third country, or rather Croatia and a third country. Talks are being held at the moment with the main emigration countries, such as Germany, Austria, Slovenia, and Croatia to ensure free transit for collective returnees. As for individual returns, it is as we just said. [end recording]

B-H: Croats in Sarajevo Upset Over Political Arrangement

LD0403100696 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0930 GMT 4 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 4 (TANJUG)—The city board of the Croatian Democratic Union Party (HDZ) in Sarajevo has described an attempt to organise the city as a Moslem canton as illegal and contrary to the constitution, Bosnian Croat Radio Herzeg-Bosnia has reported.

The Bosnian Serbs' Serb Republic News Agency SRNA quoted the radio as saying Croat officials would not attend a constitutive meeting of the city assembly scheduled for Monday.

The radio quoted a statement issued by the HDZ city board as saying that political arrangements for Sarajevo were contrary to the constitution and that the Moslem Party of Democratic Action (SDA) wanted to legalise the rule of one people and one party.

Under a peace accord for Bosnia struck in Dayton, Ohio, in November, Sarajevo, including the Serb districts of the city, is to be placed under control of the Moslem-Croat Federation.

The federation was set up under an agreement to this end signed under U.S. pressure in March 1994, following a year of fierce fighting between Moslems and Croats for control of territories with mixed population in central and southern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Despite the federation agreement, relations between the federation partners have remained strained.

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The statement said Sarajevo's Croats wanted to live together with Moslems and other ethnic groups and that for this very reason they requested that they take part on an equal footing in legislative, executive and legal bodies.

'Should this not be the case, however, Sarajevo's Croats will be forced to find other solutions in order to prevent their national and political interests,' the HDZ city board said.

The board called on all Croat state and political factors to stop the implementation of the federation constitution as long as the issue of political arrangements for Sarajevo was not solved in keeping with the constitution and law.

B-H: Commentary Sees Zagreb Behind Abdic's New Party

AU0403172096 Rijeka NOVI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 3 Mar 96 p 2

[Commentary by Jelena Lovric: "The Comeback of the Man of the Croat-Serb Deal"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Almost a month ago the superior court in Mostar registered the Democratic People's Community [DNZ]. The chairman of this newly formed party in the Federation is Fikret Abdic. DNZ leaders claim to have 20,000 registered members. They stress that by forming the party they have made possible Abdic's involvement in the peace process. They are getting ready for the elections. The party supports the Dayton accords and makes no secret of its far-reaching plans.

It is hard to believe that Zagreb has nothing to do with the legalization of Abdic's party in Mostar. Even though Sarajevo is demanding his extradition to bring him to justice, the controversial Babo [Abdic's nickname, meaning "Daddy"] is still protected by the Croatian leadership. The announcement of Abdic's comeback is in line with Tudjman's earlier statements that after the war it should be made possible for Abdic to become active in politics again. But what does his comeback mean?

In the first place, it means that Croatian policy, in spite of everything, is still supportive of Abdic, regardless of the reputation that he has acquired over recent years. In his many about turns in the war, he operated predominantly as a man of the Croat-Serb deal. Citizens of Velika Kladusa, recalling the happy prewar times of their region's prosperity brought about by Abdic's economic and political know-how, are still full of respect for him, which, depending on which angle it is viewed from, may look like loyalty, but might also look like him manipulating those wretched people. The fact that throughout the war, for the most part, they were spared the suffering is also a result of Abdic's rope-dancing.

An Ace From the Sleeve

It was through his agency that oil was shipped from Croatia to the Serbs and business was done between Serbs and Croats. [passage omitted]

How is it that unbendable supporters of ethnic purity still count on the Muslim Fikret Abdic? Simply because he is the way to accomplish Bosnia's division. This is the mutual goal of both himself and those who are pushing him. This because it is the only way for him to regain power. Although he used to have incomparably greater ambitions at the level of the entire state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, his triumphant comeback to western Bosnia is possible only if it remains apart from Sarajevo, that is, if it is not under Sarajevo's direct jurisdiction. Croatia would be happy to have its own vassal in the Bihac Canton and that is why it will help Abdic to prepare for the elections, as it has already demonstrated. This is even implied by the party's name, which irresistibly reminds us of a party [Tudjman's HDZ] with which all of us are quite familiar.

A Muslim Island

Everything has been prepared for such an outcome. However, the Muslim Canton of Bihac, incorporating the cities of Bihac, Velika Kladusa, Cazin and Sanski Most, is relying on Croatia on the one hand, while on the other it is squeezed between the Serb entity and a new Croatian canton, made up of the once predominantly Serb-inhabited municipalities of [Bosansko] Grahovo, Drvar and Glamoc. The Croatian side, which has insisted that this region be theirs, is expeditiously settling Croats there, even though it readily returned Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo to the Serbs. The Croatian Army used to hold these places, but in Dayton, Ohio, it decided to give them up. The consequence of this is that the Muslims in the Bihac region are completely surrounded and left without a link to the mixed cantons of central Bosnia. It is believed that such a link was deliberately cut. The conditions for a tripartite division of Bosnia are being created. If three ethnically homogenous spaces are formed, Bihac will become a Muslim island. The aim of such an isolation of the west Bosnian Muslims from central Bosnia is to turn them toward Croatia.

In the course of turning away from Sarajevo toward Zagreb this region can count on a certain degree of autonomy. Abdic is meant to be helpful in that respect,

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by transforming himself from Babo, whose role is now meaningless, into the governor of a Turkish Croatia.

B-H: ICRC Working Group To Trace Missing Persons

AU0503125196 Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, March 5 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has set up a working group to investigate the fate of missing persons missing in Bosnia, including thousands from the former enclave of Srebrenica, a spokeswoman said Tuesday [5 March].

Representatives from both the Moslem-Croat federation and the Bosnian Serbs met under ICRC auspices last week to establish a system whereby persons unaccounted for from the three-and-a-half-year Bosnian conflict could be traced, Lejla Salihovic told AFP.

In an earlier ICRC statement, the head of the ICRC mission in Bosnia, Beat Schweizer, said Friday's meeting had made "significant progress" and added the establishment of the working group was a big step towards bringing concrete news about the fate of loved ones to tens of thousands of families.

"It is our hope that the parties participating in the working group will come forward with information regarding those who are missing so that the concerned families can be informed as soon as possible," Schweizer said.

Thousands of refugees resettled in the Tuzla region have staged sometimes violent protests in recent weeks at continued silence on the fate of as many as 8,000 male relatives missing since the former east Bosnian Moslem enclave of Srebrenica fell last July.

Most of the missing are widely believed to have been massacred after Bosnian Serbs overran the erstwhile UN-declared safe haven.

B-H: Karadzic Reportedly Moves Freely, Uses Disguise

AU0503134496 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 5 Mar 96 p 32

[Article by Milovan Nedeljkov: "In Case of Danger—Kill Civilians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of IFOR in Bosnia said last week that they had had visual contact with Radovan Karadzic, against whom the Hague International War Crimes Tribunal has issued an arrest warrant, but they were not able to arrest him, or rather dared not, because the bodyguards protecting the psychiatrist from Pale were stronger than the IFOR troops in terms of both number and weapons.

IFOR's explanation may be viewed in various ways, but it is certain that the news from Belgrade on Karadzic's visit to Banja Luka is symptomatic. According to some sources, shortly before his arrival in Banja Luka, more than 50 notorious Kninjas, members of the police force led by Milan Martic, leader of the Krajina Serbs, arrived there. Armed with Scorpions and other types of weapons used for special operations, Martic's police discreetly took up positions in all important buildings and institutions, particularly those crowded with citizens every day. The so-called Kninjas were instructed that in the event of any activity by IFOR that might endanger Karadzic they should take hostage all the civilians that happened to be present at the time. Those people would be held hostage until Karadzic was released, while another option would be to eliminate them if Karadzic's release happened to be dragged out.

The same source points out that Karadzic is moving quite freely throughout Bosnia also because the IFOR troops are unable to recognize him. Lately he has been moving in disguise (it is noteworthy that he has cut his hair short so he can wear a wig), that is, he has been wearing a mustache and sunglasses.

B-H: NATO: Serbs 'Continuing To Meet' With IFOR

AU0303140596 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, March 3 (AFP)—The Bosnian Serbs are continuing to meet with the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR), an IFOR spokesman said Sunday, retracting earlier claims that the Serbs might have been about to break off contacts.

"Several meetings with (Bosnian Serb army) VRS representatives occurred in the last 24 hours," IFOR spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mark Rayner said.

The previous day, IFOR spokesman General Andrew Cumming, said IFOR commanders in northern Bosnia had received a letter informing them that several Bosnian Serb army units would not attend a series of military meetings.

IFOR officials feared that this could be reaction to the decision of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague on Friday to charge senior Serb General Djordje Djukic with war crimes.

"There has been some confusion," Major Peter Bullock said in Sarajevo on Sunday.

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"What transpires is that an individual who has been slightly renegade is not attending meetings.... He is the only one who has been transgressing," Bullock said.

"There is no suggestion at the moment that anybody has said—contrary to what we were indicating yesterday—has said that they are not going to comply with the requirement to go to meetings because of the Djukic indictment," he added.

B-H: Banja Luka Urged To End Bosniak Expulsions

AU0503120296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the international police in Bosnia-Herzegovina have called on the Banja Luka authorities to end the expulsion of the Bosniaks—Muslims and Croats—from their homes. Aleksandr Ivanko, representative of the international police, said that at least 160 persons have been expelled from their homes over the past few weeks [passage indistinct]. He added that the Serbs who have fled from the Sarajevo region are responsible for the expulsion of the Bosniaks and Croats from Banja Luka.

B-H: Karadzic at Meeting on Accomodating Sarajevo Serbs

LD0403235096 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2308 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 4 Mar (SRNA)—Gojko Klickovic, chairman of the operational headquarters for the reception and accommodation of the population of Serb Sarajevo, had talks in Pale today with mayors of towns from Brcko to Trebnje on activities hitherto carried out by the republican and municipal headquarters regarding evacuation of Serb Sarajevo citizens and their accommodation.

The meeting was also attended by Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic; Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the Serb Republic People's Assembly; General Dragomir Milosevic, commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps of the Serb Republic Army; and representatives of the Serb Republic Ministry of Internal Affairs, heads of security services of all municipalities, and members of the operational headquarters.

After considering and analyzing the work of the operational headquarters for several hours, those present concluded that many Sarajevo Serbs have not been given adequate accommodation in these municipalities and that it is necessary to begin as soon as possible with the application of the law on the use of abandoned property, by which these problems will be considerably alleviated. The action of applying this law must be joined by bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs so as to prevent certain individuals from using several properties at the same time.

It was stressed at the meeting that the priority task is the further evacuation of the remaining Serb Sarajevo citizens, and also their accommodation in municipalities to which they have been sent.

Taking part in the discussion, the Serb Republic president said that all municipalities have made great efforts to accommodate Serb Sarajevo citizens.

"Some municipalities have managed to accommodate a certain number of the worst affected families, but there are still quite a few problems in accommodating those who are staying in reception centers," President Karadzic said.

The Serb Republic president said that the operational headquarters should examine the situation in every municipality, after which the rebuilding of all damaged and demolished houses should be carried out to enable as many people as possible to be adequately accommodated.

B-H: 7 Soldiers in Civilian Dress 'Kidnapped' by Serbs

AU0403115696 Sarajevo VECERNJE NOVINE in Serbo-Croatian 2-3 Mar 96 p 5

[Article by M. Pt.: "Instead of Home, They Ended Up in Prison"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven civilians were kidnapped in the area of Svjetlic and Sjenina Rijeka villages, east of Doboj, in the area controlled by the international armed forces in charge of the implementation of the Dayton peace accord. As we have learned unofficially, the men in question are members of the 224 Brigade of the 2d Corps, who went to these villages as civilians to visit their homes.

With the help of the brigade's information service we have obtained the names of the missing persons: Nermin (Husein) Buljic (23); Fahrudin (Hasib) Bradaric (35); Sejfudin (Resid) Buljic (31); Nedzad (Ahmet) Nurkanovic (37); Galib (Hasan) Jahic (54); Fikret (Hasan) Muratovic (27); and Miralem (Sejad) Mujagic (29). It is reported that they set off in civilian clothes on 26 February toward the territory that is "the neutral zone" to visit their homes, which had been under Serb control since 1992. There they were intercepted by the Serbs and taken to an unknown destination, the headquarters of 224 Brigade reports. Since then nothing has been heard about them, and their families fear that

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they might have been taken to one of the Serb camps or perhaps even killed.

B-H: Official on Importance of Suspension of Sanctions

LD0303162496 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1615 GMT 3 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kragujevac, Yugoslavia, March 3 (TANJUG)—A Bosnian Serb official said on Sunday that the recent suspension of international sanctions against the (Bosnian Serb state) Republika Srpska was vital to the Serbs' survival.

Vice President of the Republika Srpska Nikola Koljevic, speaking for Radio Kragujevac in central Serbia, said that the suspension, effected by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic at a Rome summit on Bosnia in mid-February, was extremely important.

Koljevic said that the Republika Srpska was receiving the brunt of aid from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Federation of Serbia and Montenegro).

The suspension of the sanctions against the Republika Srpska is proof that there is no more war in former Yugoslavia, more particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

Koljevic said it was important that the United Nations took the view that Serbs should freely decide whether they want to stay or leave the Serb parts of Sarajevo.

Under the Dayton peace accord for Bosnia, these parts of Sarajevo should be placed under the rule of the Muslim-Croat Federation after March 20.

This will remove political differences and misinterpretations about 'who is forcing whom to stay or to go,' he added.

B-H: National Bank Official Assesses Privatization

96BA0157A Sarajevo DNEVNI AVAZ in Serbo-Croatian 26 Jan 96 p 6

[Article by Hilmo Mujic, based on an interview with Dr. Enver Backovic, vice governor of the National Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina; place and date of interview not given: "Undertaking Reconstruction With the Help of the Private Sector"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The competent authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina took the first steps even earlier to bring about a possible commitment to the privatization of socially owned and state-owned property. Considerably more would certainly have been done in this regard if the aggression against our country had not occurred. However, our inclusion in international financial flows presupposes a change in ownership, which world bankers are emphasizing and even ordering.

We have learned unofficially that the change in ownership in banks would be among the first to be made, and we talked about this with Dr. Enver Backovic, vice governor of the National Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Aware that large firms and social systems are the founders of certain banks, I think they should be privatized first, and that would change the ownership of the banks. To be sure, some of these systems are of particular interest to the state, and they most probably will continue to be state-owned enterprises. In that case, a separate decision must be made on the destiny of these banks," Backovic said.

Backovic emphasizes that privatization of the banks will be held back considerably by the existence of "contaminated assets," and he says:

"These are sizable uncollectible claims, implying high potential losses to the banks. The banks are also creditors of certain economic entities which were destroyed in the war and no longer exist. These are intractable problems which greatly reduce the value of the banks."

A real solution needs to be found for old foreign exchange savings. On this topic, Dr. Backovic says:

"The idea will probably be to create a state fund to settle those claims. Perhaps through the agency for financial rehabilitation of the banks, whereby the balance sheet would be cleaned up and settlement would be made with securities. This would make it possible for the banks to start out on a sounder foundation, so that their business operation would be more successful, but also so that privatization would be more effective."

The IMF is also calling for more rapid privatization of public assets in Bosnia-Herzegovina, on which the vice governor comments:

"It is a fact that the international community wants to work with the private sector in the reconstruction and development of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

According to Backovic, everyone who has the capital and interest will be able to enter the process of buying the banks, including the state, but it would not be desirable for it to hold the controlling block of stock.

We asked our informant what this means for the status of the National Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina?

"The National Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina is the bank of banks, and it operates to meet the needs of the state. This bank's principal function is to shape and implement monetary and foreign exchange policy," Backovic says.

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However, there will be definite changes even in it, which the vice governor explains:

"Under the Dayton agreement, the National Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina will have the function of a committee on the currency for the next six years. This means that it will not be in a position to use monetary policy as an independent instrument of economic policy."

All of this suggests the conclusion that it will be possible to issue the domestic currency only with 100-percent coverage in hard currency, which, according to Backovic, is the case even now.

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Croatia: Czech PM Meets Matesa, Signs Accords

LD0503121396 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1100 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus arrived by air in Croatia today. Martin Dorazin, our special correspondent in the prime minister's entourage, reports from Zagreb:

[Dorazin] After landing at Pleso airport in Zagreb, the Czech delegation left for the Croatian government building, where talks between Vaclav Klaus and Croatian Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa started before 1100.

Their talks concern similar issues as those discussed during Klaus's talks in Belgrade yesterday. The prime ministers discussed the situation in Bosnia and bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Croatia.

Vaclav Klaus and Zlatko Matesa signed an agreement on support and protection of investments, a trade agreement, and an agreement on visa-free travel between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Klaus will be received by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in the evening.

Croatia: War Crimes Evidence Prepared in Dubrovnik

AU0503133096 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 5 Mar 96 p 32

[Article by I. Papac: "Charges Against Vucurevic as Well?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dubrovnik—A delegation of the World Victims' Society led by Zvonimir Separovic is on a visit to The Hague at the invitation of Richard Goldstone, chairman of the International War Crimes Tribunal. Separovic is due to meet with investigators and judges of the Tribunal. The purpose of the visit is to prepare documentation to issue an indictment against Slobodan Milosevic as a major war criminal, as well as to expand the indictment against Milan Martic [former self-proclaimed president of the Serb Krajina].

A novelty is that documentation is being prepared to issue an indictment against Colonel Pavle Strugar and 30 other officers of the former Yugoslav People's Army, as well as indictments against the notorious Chetnik leader from Trebinje Bozidar Vucurevic, current self-proclaimed president of the so-called eastern Herzegovina and an additional 22 civilians. They are accused of carrying out attacks on the civilian population and of the destruction of the cultural heritage in Dubrovnik, Konavle, Zupa Dubrovacka and at the Dubrovnik riviera in the period between 1 October 1991 and 30 August 1995.

As we were told yesterday by the head of the Department for Promotion with the Institute for Reconstruction of Dubrovnik Dubravka Zvrko, the well-known exhibition on war destruction in Dubrovnik has already been sent to Separovic in The Hague, where it will be shown in support of the evidence of war crimes having been committed in southern Croatia.

Croatia: Trial of Suspected Serb War Criminal Begins

LD0403190396 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The trial of Mirko Graorac, a Serb pensioner who has been kept in detention since last year, began at the county court in Split. There is a well-founded suspicion that he committed a criminal act against humanity and international law, which constitutes a crime against POWs, as a commander at the Serb Manjaca detention camp.

Along with some camp wardens, he pshchologically and physically maltreated camp inmates using rubber truncheons, rifle butts, laths, and electrical cords. He gave orders for the execution of seven inmates by cutting their throats. A number of eye witnesses today gave testimonies against him. The trial continues.

Croatia: Serbs Say Return to Homes Hindered by Croatia

AU0303142396 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 3 Mar 96

[By Sonia Bakaric]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, March 3 (AFP)—The Croatian government is obstructing the return of thousands of Croatian Serbs who fled their homes last year by setting up administrative hurdles, UN aid workers and a Serb party leader said Sunday [3 March].

The Croatian authorities have "come up with a whole series of administrative obstacles to stop thousands of Serbs from coming back," Milorad Vojvodic, a leader of the minority Serb National Party (SNS) said here.

Croatia has come under increasing pressure to accept back thousands of Serbs who fled Croatia in May and August last year when the Croatian army retook two regions held by rebel Serb forces since 1991.

Most of the 180,000 Serbs, who fled into often miserable conditions in Serbia and in Serb-held land in Bosnia "now want to come back," Vojvodic said.

But the Croatian authorities have introduced a rule "insisting that they can only return if they have family

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here. Anyone with no relatives here can never return," he said.

"People who lost their documents during the war, also have to pay 1,500 kuna (270 dollars) to get it back," he added.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman is suspected of wanting to build an ethnically "pure" Croatia without Serbs.

Before the 1991 outbreak of the war in Croatia, when Serbs rebelled against Zagreb's drive for independence from Belgrade, Serbs made up 12 percent of the population.

The government's refugees office, asked this weekend, said that more than 5,600 of 14,000 applications by Croatian Serbs to return to their homes had been processed since the Serbs left last August.

An official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said however that only 2,500 requests, mainly from the elderly, had been agreed.

"It's obvious that the Croatians don't want them back. Serbs in Croatia, even when they are not getting beaten up, face all sorts of discrimination, in jobs and other areas," he added.

Last year Croatia tried to bar the Serbs from returning by confiscating homes abandoned in the flight from the August offensive. Only if the Serbs returned within three months and declared themselves could they take their property back.

After international protests, Croatia backtracked on the three-month deadline.

The UN Security Council on February 23 expressed concern about the fate of Croatia's Serb minority, and urged the Croatian government to ensure the return of refugees wishing to go back.

The Security Council said it "remains deeply concerned at the situation of those refuguees from the republic of Croatia who wish to return. It condemns the fact that effective measures have not so far been taken in that respect."

According to aid workers, a large number of Serbs have come home illegally, slipping across the Croatian-Hungarian border.

In a warning to those who do return, the Croatian branch of the Helsinki Human Rights Committee said last week murders of Serbs in Croatia were continuing.

Two Serbs, aged 83 and 81, were killed on February 26 in a village south of Zagreb and "despite assurances by the judge to the victims' families that they could bury the bodies, the police ignored these promises and buried them themselves without the families being present," the committee said.

The Krajina region, one of two Serb-controlled areas overrun by Croatian government forces last summer, has since then become a virtually uninhabited wasteland.

Croatia: UN Members' Attempts To Use Kuna Create Anxiety

LD0403145196 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1358 GMT 4 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Erdut, March 4 (TANJUG)—Members of the U.N. Transitional Administration of the Srem-Baranja region (UNTAES) have received no instructions to use Croatia's currency, the kuna, U.N. Spokesman Douglas Kaufman said Monday [4 March].

The statement was prompted by anxiety caused among the local population, predominantly Serbs, by two attempts of UNTAES members to pay for goods and services in kunas.

President of the Srem-Baranja Council Slavko Dokmanovic has said that the two cases were either provocations, initiated by Croats, or simply slips, since U.N. personnel practically daily use kunas in Osijek, Vinkovci and other nearby towns in Croatia.

The Srem-Baranja region is the only part of the Republic of Serb Krajina not occupied by Croatia in May and August last year. Croatia and the Srem-Baranja Serbs agreed in November last year on a peaceful resolution of the dispute.

The region will be under the transitional U.N. administration for a period of a year, with the possibility open for the U.N. administration to be prolongued for another twelve months.

The agreement does not regulate the issue of which currency will be used.

Decisions remain to be taken on the issue of currency and other similar details during the transitional period.

Croatia: Opposition Discusses Appointment of Zagreb Mayor

LD0403194096 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] With regard to the appointment of Marina Dropulic-Matulovic to the post of Zagreb mayor, our reporters have visited some opposition party leaders. Here are their comments:

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[Begin recording] [Ivica Racan, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia] We hold Mrs. Dropulic-Matulovic, her work qualities and in particular her knowledge of Zagreb in high esteem. However, we do not hold in high esteem and cannot support the stubborn continuance of practice pursued by HDZ [Croatian Democratic Union] whereby they impose a solution on opposition party councillors—who constitute a majority in the city assembly—which is contrary to what they wish. Therefore I am not hopeful that this solution will be accepted by the city assembly.

[Jozo Rados, official of the Croatian Social Liberal Party] The president has rejected for no valid reason two candidates for Zagreb mayor put forward by opposition parties. The president has appointed his own Zagreb mayor who will be rejected by the opposition. In fact, the whole situation is just becoming more exacerbated.

[Zlatko Tomcic, member of the Croatian Peasant Party] The oppostion can never accept the appointed candidate; by accepting this candidate it would embrace the way of understanding what a majority is, as perceived by HDZ.

[Stjepo Martinovic, member of the Croatian People's Party] The procedure is continuing. The opposition coalition is standing firm and is looking forward to elections for Zagreb after which we are definitely going to talk about Zagreb mayor in a completely different way. [end recording]

Croatia: Opposition Reaction to Zagreb Mayor Criticized

LD0403195896 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We now have on the line our correspondent Zeljko Raic from the presidential palace. Zeljko, good evening.

[Raic] My greetings to you and esteemed viewers. Following the announcement this morning of President Tudjman's decision to appoint Marina Matulovic-Dropulic as mayor of Zagreb and reactions by political parties, I am reporting live from the president's office. Mr. Sanader [head of Tudjman's office], what is the office's reaction to what other parties had to say?

[Sanader] It should first be noted that, according to the statements by the opposition leaders, it is obvious that the opposition will not accept any candidate put forward by the HDZ [Croatian Democratic Union], the party that won the elections or rather scored a relative [Serbo-Croat: relativan] electoral victory in Zagreb. These statements do not mean that the Zagreb city assembly will reject the candidate; in other words, we must wait. I think this is what democratic procedure is all about; we must wait for the assembly's decision and then we shall see. What I want to say on this occasion is that under the constitution, the president has the duty to ensure that the executive authorities function in Zagreb, which, as you know, amounts to almost one quarter of the Croatian population, and we know how important it is politically, economically, and in any other sense. I am convinced that even despite the rejection, but as I said we must respect the democratic procedure and wait for the assembly's decision, that after the rejection of this candidate, the opposition, unfortunately, despite the appeal by the president at the HDZ Main Committee session, about 10 days ago, after his appeal for cooperation, after I would say the crucial step by which he showed that he is for cooperation and wants to resolve problems to mutual advantage, this means by appointing two deputy prefects from the opposition's ranks, that the opposition has not shown even the smallest amount of desire to cooperate or rather to resolve the issue in the way that would reflect both the election results in Zagreb and cooperation among the parties.

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FYROM: Joint U.S.-Macedonian Military Exercises

LD0203115496 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1126 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Skopje, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—Joint tactical military exercises by members of special units of the Macedonian [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] Army and the U.S. Army are under way in the FYROM, it was announced in Skopje today.

It has been stated that the exercises, which began on 29 February and which are due to go on until 14 March, are taking place on Popova Sapka (the slopes of Mount Sar) in wintry conditions, and in the vicinity of Prilep, where parachute jumps will be carried out.

This is the second military exercise by members of the two armies, and it is added that its purpose is "to exchange experiences in carrying out activities in difficult weather conditions on different types of terrain."

The U.S. soldiers taking part in this exercise in the FYROM are from the 10th detachment of special forces from Fort Carson, Colorado, the Macedonian Defense Ministry says in a statement. [passage omitted]

FYROM: Gligorov Reaffirms Need for Understanding

AU0503110796 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 4 Mar 96 p 2

[Unattributed report on speech by President Kiro Gligorov to the Macedonian Rotary Club in Skopje on 22 February: "There Is No Alternative to Understanding and Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At this time every year Rotary clubs all over the world discuss peace. On 22 February President Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] addressed the members of the Macedonian Rotary Club on today's most pressing issue "Understanding and Cooperation in the World."

On this occasion, Gligorov said that in the last decade of the 20th century the world is faced with dramatic political and security changes. The basic characteristic of these changes was the collapse of socialism and European bipolarity, which opened a new historical phase in the development of overall international, economic, and political relations. The fundamental achievement is the end of the era of totalitarian systems in a large number of countries, as well as the end of bloc divisions that had generated numerous misunderstandings, tensions, and conflicts.

However, these great historical events themselves cannot solve the acute problems of peace and understanding in the world. In fact, they have opened a series of new and strategic aspects of these issues. An era that is often and rightfully called the era of postbipolarity and transition of the former socialist countries started. For these countries it means facing a dramatic transition of the totalitarian regimes into market economies and democratic societies.

It is dramatic because objectively it contains the complex of social issues and intensified security risks as a result of the increasing nationalism and interethnic conflicts.

We are particularly pleased because today there is not just all-European, but also a broader international awareness that the economic, political, and security questions in Europe and the world are of universal human importance and of common interest for the international community. On the eve of the new century, this is exactly why peace and understanding is of concrete significance for us, and it is a vital issue for the Republic of Macedonia, for the Balkans, and for Europe at large. This is exactly the aspect that I would like to discuss.

Foundations of Macedonian Policy

Five years after independence, the Republic of Macedonia has tried to define the foundations of its internal and foreign position and policy on the principles of peace, understanding, and cooperation. As a political concept and determination, but also as a confirmed practice and solution, this resulted in a Macedonian model of peace and security in the Balkans, or understanding and cooperation among the countries and nations.

On the internal political plane, this model has been founded on the following elements: The peaceful disintegration of the former Yugoslavia by political means and without war and the changing of borders by force. That is why the Republic of Macedonia proclaimed its independence through a referendum and resolutely pointed out in its Constitution that it is against war in the territories of former Yugoslavia. The second important fact is that it proclaimed its independence within the existing borders, as internationally affirmed borders. Not only did it not advocate territorial pretensions and attempts to change borders by force, but it is constantly indicating that this was the basic reason for a hundred-year war in the ethnically intermingled Balkans. Considering the typically Balkan environment, in its new Constitution, and this is really something unusual in European practice, Macedonia has written down that it does not have any territorial pretensions toward any of

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its neighbors. Today, Macedonia has practically no border disputes with its neighbors, Gligorov pointed out.

The clear readiness to undertake rapid and radical reforms, the consistent transition to a market economy, is an equally important aspect that has proven to be the only chance of achieving economic progress and giving the country good prospects. Macedonia has consistently followed this road despite the social costs of being a country in transition, the difficulties it suffered as a result of the UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro in the past few years, and the unlawful Greek embargo against it.

Normally, on the internal plane it is of great importance that it aspires to become a modern European state with parliamentary democracy and the constitutional standards that characterize a developed civil society. In spite of the current problems on this plane, it has succeeded in making this firm orientation the cornerstone around which the relevant political subjects in the Republic of Macedonia have grouped themselves. One of the most important issues in our domestic development, one that has had a positive impact on understanding and cooperation in the region, was the model of interethnic understanding and tolerance, as well as the implementation of standards regarding the rights of the nationalities in the Republic of Macedonia. This model is based on the traditions of the Macedonian nation and the nationalities that are living in Macedonia, but it is also based on the standards of international law and practice in this field. This has confirmed the Republic of Macedonia to be an untypical Balkan country in a period of ethnic cleansing and genocide, suffocation of ethnic rights, and ethnic discrimination in the Balkan region, which is one of the biggest threats to security in Europe.

European Option

On the foreign political plane, the Republic of Macedonia has established a position that is typical of the political philosophy and practice of understanding and cooperation. First of all because it fully adheres to the European option of integration and cooperation. Although only until yesterday many thought that it was just a vague hope, today negotiations for economic and trade cooperation with the EU have started, marking the beginning of full membership in the EU, together with membership in NATO, and the first such step was taken by joining the "Partnership for Peace." As a member of the Council of Europe and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], the Republic of Macedonia firmly adheres to the principles of understanding, peace, and cooperation among the nations and countries, Gligorov said.

Second, it determined itself for development of good neighborly relations in the Balkans on the principles of inviolability of borders, noninterference in internal affairs, and for Europeanization of the Balkans, for formal borders—opened for the free movement of people, goods, and ideas. Bearing in mind the fact that there is not a single Balkan country in which there do not live representatives of national minorities from neighboring countries, we strongly believe that the rights of the national minorities are questions that have to be dealt with by the OSCE and appropriate European and international institutions. These questions pertain to internal democratic development and implementation of human rights and freedoms in each Balkan country separately.

From this aspect, it is important that Macedonia has consistently pursued the concept of equal cooperation with all its neighbors. These has proved to be productive not only from the point of view of overcoming the historical causes of the Balkan conflicts and wars, but also as a concept that has opened the European principles of cooperation and good neighborliness in the Balkans.

That is exactly why I would like to discuss the current development of Macedonia's relations with the neighbors in this context. In spite of a series of historical prejudices and misunderstandings, which resulted in the Macedonian nation's tragic history in the past two centuries, at the end of this century the independent Macedonian state became a Balkan reality. Sooner or later, with greater or lesser problems, this reality will be accepted by our neighbors. Moreover, it has been confirmed that the independent Macedonian state is actually the key to peace and security in the southern Balkans. Finally, this a real interest of the international community and its organizations, from the EU and NATO, to the United Nations.

Cooperation With Neighbors

"Regarding relations with our neighbors, it has been confirmed that mutual understanding and cooperation are the best way to normalize relations and solve some mutual problems, but also to open real possibilities for cooperation," Macedonia's President pointed out.

"That is the way in which cooperation is developed between Macedonia and most of its neighbors. Full diplomatic relations were established with the Republic of Bulgaria soon after independence, as well as with the Republic of Albania. Normalization of relations with the Republic of Greece started only after the Interim Accord signed in New York, which was of great importance for general security in the region. I firmly believe that

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mutual recognition between Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will follow soon.

"Unfortunately, the end of 20th century will mark a black page in the history of Europe—the war in Bosnia—as the most radical expression of tensions in the inflammable European region—the Balkans. The Dayton Accord and Paris Peace Conference defined the framework for peace for Bosnia. It will be a long and thorny road not only to pacification, but also to restoring normal living conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Not only is it difficult to heal the wounds of mass destruction, mass graves, thousands of refugees, but also of material destructions, destroyed towns, and above all of the interpersonal understanding and confidence. However, there is no alternative.

"All this will certainly affect the overall situation in the Balkan region. The Balkans today, I am convinced, represents one of the key question for testing the future of the common European security architecture, defense policy, and common European future. The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, unfortunately, has most tragically shown that the Balkans cannot be pushed to the European periphery. That is why it is more than urgent to apply a real European strategy for the whole Balkan region in which there is no alternative to understanding and cooperation, because they represent the only way to surmount the remnants of postbipolar Europe, overcome the complexes of the so-called conflict of the worlds and ideologies, and create the conditions for a strong and new European architecture in the Balkans. The Republic of Macedonia will consistently follow this road," Gligorov said in conclusion.

FYROM: Andov Expresses Concern, Resigns

AU0503111096 Skopje Radio Macedonia Network in Macedonian 1430 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Announcer-read statement by Assembly Chairman Stoyan Andov]

[FBIS Translated Text] I submit my resignation because the members of parliament, who were elected from the joint list of the election coalition Alliance for Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], which ceased to exist after the formation of the new government on 23 February, were those who elected me. I assess the procedure that [prime minister] Branko Crvenkovski applied in proposing the new government and for its election as a unilateral breakup of the election coalition "Alliance for Macedonia," which is contrary to the wish of the electoral body that voted for the candidates of the Alliance. Starting from the basic principle of parliamentary democracy in the division of legislative, executive, and judiciary power, I assess this change of government as outrageous. In December 1994, Premier Branko Crvenkovski was given the mandate by the president of the state because he was a candidate of the Alliance for Macedonia, the group of parties that had the majority. By excluding the Liberal Party from this group, he broke off the Alliance and formed a new group. This provides sufficient constitutional grounds for the prime minister to return the mandate and to ask for a mandate from the president of the state on behalf of the newly created group of parties with majority. The premier did not act in this way but bypassed the constitutional role of the president of the republic in the election of a new government on the foundations of a new coalition. In so doing, the position of the prime minister was raised above the position of the head of state, above the parliament, and the state institutions in general, which is contrary to parliamentary democracy.

The events that are related to the formation of the new government revealed that the intention was to disarray the constitutionally established relations between the government and the parliament. The commanding attitude of the prime minister over the parliament became apparent. A new government was elected without asking for a report on the work of the former government, without a program for future activities, which reduces the controlling role of the parliament over the government. Most serious is the fact that relationships that are established by the Constitution, between the prime minister and the president, between the prime minister and the assembly, are being used for the needs of a party and as a result of the decisions of the same party. In the recent work of the government and its election, the principle of responsibility has been forsaken, and thus a possibility has been created for misuse of the authorities by the prime minister and the ministers without running the risk of assuming responsibility because the parliament is placed in a subordinate role. The whole situation will increase the legal insecurity and inequality of the citizens, as well as violations of human rights and freedoms in all fields. It will also affect free initiative in the economy, which will lead to profound political, economic, and social crisis in the country.

FYROM: Budget Hurt by Cigarette Smuggling

AU0103211496 Skopje MIC in English 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On an annual level, Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] loses between 20 and 30 million DM [German mark] on account of cigarette smuggling alone, MAKPRESS reports.

Up to 80 percent of the goods seized in various raids are cigarettes. The investigation conducted by NOVA

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MAKEDONIJA and TUTUN, the two houses recording the highest sale of cigarettes in the country, shows that the legal sale of the cigarettes of the brand Lord and Marlboro has dropped a staggering 80 percent. In 1990-91, between 13 and 15 [metric] tons of Lord cigarettes were sold in Skopje alone, and now, on account of smuggling, the legal sale has plunged to less than half a ton.

In July 1994, over 85 million denars were added to the budget, on account of excise duty on tobacco, and in the same month last year, somewhat more than 65 million.

In October 1995, over 34 million denars were added to the budget on the same basis, while in the same period in 1994, this sum totalled 58 million denars.

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Poland: Agreement Denied for Corridor Through Poland

LD0403155396 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1500 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandra Jakubowska has confirmed that the government will not agree to the construction on Poland's territory of an exterritorial road that would link Belarus to Kaliningrad Oblast.

Referring to press articles, according to which the Suwalki provincial governor included the construction of such a highway in the town and country planning projects, the government spokeswoman said that the provincial governor had exceeded his powers.

[Begin Jakubowska recording] This is outside a provincial governor's remit. International relations are the domain of the government and the president. The head of the Office of the Council of Ministers has issued instructions that this matter be investigated very thoroughly. If the remit of some of the state bodies was exceeded, appropriate conclusions will be drawn from that fact and there will be repercussions. [end recording]

Poland: Blueprint Exists for Kaliningrad-Belarus Corridor

WS0503124996 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 2-3 Mar 96 p 1

[Article by Cezary Gmyz and "MFT": "The Corridor Has Been Drawn"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *We have obtained documents proving that the blueprint for the construction of an expressway from Belarus to Kaliningrad via Poland already exists.*

A few days ago, Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed construction of an expressway and a railroad that would connect Kaliningrad with Belarus. Our politicians—the president, the minister of foreign affairs, and the transport minister—immediately said "no."

ZYCIE WARSZAWY determined, however, that the Transport Ministry already has maps showing exactly where the future "Suwalki corridor" would be constructed. Among the documents we obtained are materials from the "Transproject" design office, which prepared a detailed blueprint on the order of the General Directorate of Roads and Bridges (which is under the Transport Ministry).

When we asked Transport Ministry officials about the issue, they were unable to say who ordered the directorate to prepare the blueprint. The directorate's employees gave similar answers when asked about the orderer. They sent us to their director, who was away yesterday.

The Voivodship Office in Suwalki is also familiar with the detailed blueprint. Boguslaw Zukowski, deputy director of the economic section in this office, told us yesterday that the office did not agree with the plans. Asked whether the section or the entire office had made any protest, he replied that "there was no such need." Agnieszka Cholopiak, spokeswoman for the Voivodship Office in Suwalki, claims that the voivode does not have sufficient power to make decisions regarding construction of international roads. The decision to map the route was made in Warsaw.

The Office of the Council of Ministers is familiar with the matter. The government office that has the least information on it is the Foreign Affairs Ministry [MSZ]. As we were told by former Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, the Polish MSZ did not receive any official memos or requests regarding this issue. Foreign Affairs Minister Dariusz Rosati could not be reached yesterday; he had gone abroad. ZYCIE WARSZAWY established, however, that the MSZ had tried to obtain information on the construction plans from Eastern diplomats. However, none of the Polish ministries asked the MSZ whether mapping such a route lies in Poland's interest.

Work on the so-called Suwalki corridor project began in 1993. The idea of constructing such a transport corridor appeared along with the first plans to map the Yamal-Western Europe gas pipeline.

Poland: Rosati: Fundamental Option Remains EU, NATO

BR0403145896 Brussels LE SOIR in French 1 Mar 96 p 2

[Interview with Polish Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati by Pol Mathil; place and date not given: "Polish Postcommunism in the Face of the World's Suspicions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mathil] An academic, professor of economics, United Nations and World Bank expert, you took over as foreign minister in January, at a particularly difficult moment for Poland. Your country's image was severely tarnished by the "Oleksy affair," concerning accusations against the former prime minister for spying for the Russians.

[Rosati] The West has also seen similar scandals.

[Mathil] Not of this nature or at this level.

[Rosati] This affair certainly does not help us. What is important and what the West expects of us, without prejudging the outcome of the inquiry, is to have

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the matter settled in accordance with the fundamental principles of justice and democracy. It is a test for Polish democracy.

[Mathil] This is the eighth Polish Government since the collapse of communism, but, after three foreign ministers linked to Solidarity, you are the first to be drawn from the postcommunist Left. Is this a sign of change or continuity?

[Rosati] I am continuing with the policy of my three predecessors, who were close to Solidarity. The strategic choices were made in 1989. Our fundamental option remains membership in the European Union and NATO.

[Mathil] But progress toward it is clearly slowing down.

[Rosati] We are no longer the "fair-haired boy" of 1989-90, whom everyone admired and wanted to help. There are now some very specific problems. The West is invoking a number of excuses and obstacles, often authentic but sometimes pretexts. Regardless of what is being said in Brussels, we must continue with our work in such a way as to render integration a natural outcome.

[Mathil] ... and less expensive for the EU.

[Rosati] Exactly. But the question of "cost" is often raised unilaterally. There are also "profits" and undeniable economic benefits.

[Mathil] And political?

[Rosati] Membership, of Poland in particular, would stabilize our area of the continent, strengthen democracy, and remove the possibility of any political change of course or even destabilizing social upheavals.

[Mathil] Membership in the European Union is therefore politically acceptable but economically difficult. With NATO, the reverse is the case. And the Russian veto?

[Rosati] There are those in the West who are convinced that NATO enlargement and good relations with Russia are irreconcilable. I do not believe this. Within NATO, we will be the spokesman for good relations, with our neighbors, with Russia.

[Mathil] With which relations are not good.

[Rosati] They are not as good as we would like them to be. The prospect of our NATO membership places a heavy burden on these relations. But we will endeavour to convince Moscow that this membership is not directed against Russia. After the electoral period, which encourages one-upmanship, especially of a nationalistic kind, we believe that Russia will accept enlargement, and for a number of reasons. It is perhaps a question of "price" and, in particular, the offer of a vast aid program to help modernize Russian industry.

[Mathil] Do you think money is enough?

[Rosati] Obviously not. This enlarged NATO must also offer Russia a kind of strategic security treaty and partnership status that reflects its power.

[Mathil] Many people believe that good relations with Russia are more important for Western security than NATO enlargement. Chancellor Kohl recently spoke of the "psychological aspects" of the Russian veto. He said that the question of NATO enlargement "will be discussed when the time comes." But, until recently, wasn't Mr. Kohl your best advocate in the West?

[Rosati] He still is. You must place his latest statements in the context of the Russian elections. The German position has not changed. We have verified this. But the fact remains that all of this hinges upon an improvement in our relations with Moscow. That is the key problem for our diplomacy. I believe it is for us to take the initiative. Our president will be traveling to Moscow in April. My Russian counterpart, Mr. Primakov, will be in Warsaw in a few days' time.

[Mathil] Well, you have the blessing of the West in this.

[Rosati] We are aware of this. We must show that we are a responsible partner that, following NATO membership, will not involve the West in questionable escapades.

[Mathil] The "escapade" is perhaps being prepared in Moscow. Communist Party Leader Zyuganov continues to lead in the opinion polls. Would a communist Russian president be a disaster?

[Rosati] There are some processes he could not reverse, supposing he wanted to, that is.

[Mathil] Could Zyuganov be described as a postcommunist? Could he be compared to the Polish postcommunists?

[Rosati] It is certainly not the same kind of postcommunism, but it is not Soviet-type communism, either, and even less an extremism of the Zhirinovskiy variety or the populism of General Lebed.

[Mathil] But Zyuganov is proposing to recreate a kind of USSR.

[Rosati] He still fails to understand that empire is not a good thing. Let us be realistic: Russia does not have the means to conduct this kind of policy. More seriously, we will be obliged to cooperate with any Russian government that results from democratic elections.

[Mathil] Doesn't the Oleksy affair, involving relations between the former prime minister and KGB agents, reveal the very delicate nature of the links between the

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former communists and Moscow, relations that survived the collapse of the former regime?

[Rosati] The inquiry into the Oleksy affair is still continuing. Let us wait for proof, and, personally, I do not believe there will be any.

[Mathil] Should we take seriously the idea of a "Russian alternative" in Poland in the light of Western hesitations to enlarge NATO? Is it correct to speak of a pro-Russian political orientation or movement in Poland? Or of your neutrality?

[Rosati] You speak of a pro-Russian orientation or a neutrality movement in Poland: these phenomena are virtually nonexistent in Polish politics. Russia is our neighbor, with which we must have the best possible relations, irrespective of the regime. But this is not an "orientation." Russia today is not in a position to offer Poland any alternative. Poland's future is in Europe, in the European Union, in NATO. That is our cultural environment, that is our civilization.

Poland: Interview With Minister of Internal Affairs

WS0503113596 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 27 Feb 96 pp 12-13

[Interview with Polish Minister of Internal Affairs Zbigniew Siemiatkowski by Katarzyna Kesicka and Jaroslaw Kurski; place and date not given: "Impartial Minister, Party Member"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *"I am aware of the risk. Public opinion is going to be sensitive to what I do as it has never been before, and the opposition will not leave a clean spot on me," says Minister of Internal Affairs Zbigniew Siemiatkowski in a conversation with Katarzyna Kesicka and Jaroslaw Kurski.*

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] You have said "I am terrified by the permeation of journalists' circles by secret agent rings." Do you know who you are talking to at the moment?

[Siemiatkowski] I never said those words in public.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Why then is everybody quoting them?

[Siemiatkowski] I presume this must have been a monitored leak from the special commission investigating the activities of the special services in the Oleksy case. The author of this leak is fully aware that one cannot confirm or deny anything. Everything going on behind the commission's door is under the secrecy act. I take this very seriously.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] How many agents of the Office of State Protection [UOP] are there among journalists?

[Siemiatkowski] I do not have that kind of knowledge. I have been the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MSW] for too short a time. I do not deem it appropriate for the head of the MSW to start work by reviewing UOP sources of information.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Do you feel you are the right person in the right place?

[Siemiatkowski] I ask that question myself. I worked for five years in the Sejm commission for administration and internal affairs. I know all of the budgets and legal acts of the MSW that went through the commission. For two years I served on the political advisory committee, aiding the minister of internal affairs. For a couple of months, I took part in the work of the Sejm commission for the supervision of the special services. I think, therefore, that, from a professional point of view, I am no worse prepared than my predecessors. But you will probably ask me whether a person identified with the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD], Social Democracy of the Polish Republic [SdRP], and the president should be the head of the MSW.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Obviously I will.

[Siemiatkowski] I am here, but not because I want to be here. I accepted this post at the personal request of the president and the prime minister, both of whom I am connected with not only by professional ties but also by years of friendship. I am aware of the risk. Public opinion is going to be sensitive to what I do as it has never been before, and the opposition will not leave a clean spot on me.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] It is already doing that.

[Siemiatkowski] Yes, I have not done anything yet, but I am already being criticized.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] As the spokesman of Kwasniewski's election staff, you did a lot. You maintained that the special services were involved in Walesa's election campaign. You have never withdrawn these accusations, although the Sejm committee has asserted that UOP was neutral during the campaign.

[Siemiatkowski] I have not withdrawn that, but, as head of the MSW, I am not trying to find any confirmation of the misgivings I expressed at that time.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] These were not misgivings but accusations, and you have not presented any evidence.

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[Siemiatkowski] Whether I have or not presented any evidence, this would have to be checked from my statements made at a closed session of the committee. That my arguments did not find proper understanding among the majority of the commission members is entirely another thing.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] You know very well that you have gone too far with these accusations against UOP. And now you have the problem of how to withdraw them.

[Siemiatkowski] Every political campaign has its logic and dramatics. Today maybe I would not use such a hard word in reference to the special services, or I might say it in a more delicate way. I said this at my first meeting with UOP management.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] What were your motives? Did you want to gain the officers' trust? Did you feel that your statements from the campaign impaired your authority?

[Siemiatkowski] When I met with the high UOP officers, I understood that they were expecting me—without asking but looking me in the eye—to say whether I had come to the MSW to continue the political campaign or to fulfill the statutory duties of a minister of internal affairs. I said that I would like to cooperate in a loyal way with them and that I expected their loyalty.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And what was their response? Have you gained their trust?

[Siemiatkowski] I am a civilian and I will always be foreign to them. I do not want to use their jargon, to pretend that I have operational knowledge or dictate to them what to do in particular cases. I am to present, on behalf of the president and the prime minister, tasks for the special services and to check the results and the expense.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Have you already become familiar with the materials gathered by UOP on the Oleksy case?

[Siemiatkowski] I have not. As long as I do not have to, I will not deal with that case. I have a very superficial knowledge of it, gathered from the materials that were presented to me by [former] Minister Jerzy Konieczny.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] A month ago you said: "I am absolutely convicted that the evidence on the Oleksy case does not qualify anybody to charge the former prime minister with consciously acting to the detriment of Poland." Do you still believe that?

[Siemiatkowski] I expressed my view as a politician. Today, as the head of the MSW, I would rather not answer that question. That is because whatever I say will be read as an attempt to influence the investigation process.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] But is it not rashness to express "absolute conviction" on the basis of a cursory review of the materials?

[Siemiatkowski] Let us wait for the statement by the public prosecutor's office and, possibly, by the jury. I will receive any verdict calmly and I will not contest it.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And what do you think about Tadeusz Iwinski, an SLD deputy who, speaking from the Sejm podium, has publicly absolved Oleksy?

[Siemiatkowski] He is familiar with all of the material. I am not.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And if you were?

[Siemiatkowski] I would not express such views. In this case, I have forced great restraint upon myself, and I advise both Iwinski and the opposition deputies who publicly talk about the commission's work to do the same.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Was it a good idea to choose Jozef Oleksy as the head of the SdRP?

[Siemiatkowski] I myself voted for Oleksy. If the final verdict is not favorable for him, the SdRP will have to verify its decision.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] But will it not be too late for that? This could shame the SdRP, too.

[Siemiatkowski] This is the risk we have taken.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Admittedly, Oleksy has not been proved guilty of cooperating with a foreign intelligence service, but it is known that he partied with a Russian diplomat. This means that the head of the SdRP does not have to be a spy, but he can engage in partying?

[Siemiatkowski] Oleksy has already suffered political consequences.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] But he can be the head of a party?

[Siemiatkowski] There is a difference between being the head of a party and the head of a government.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And why did you vote for Oleksy?

[Siemiatkowski] This results from my statement that you have quoted.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] ...that you are sure of his innocence.

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[Siemiatkowski] Yes. But I talked about Oleksy's being innocent as a member of the higher council of the SdRP.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] You see what kind of awkwardness you are exposing yourself to. The same Siemiatkowski on one occasion speaks as a member of the SdRP and on another as the minister of internal affairs. Andrzej Milczanowski had the luxury of not being a member of any party.

[Siemiatkowski] Right, but in the past five years I have not been the only minister of internal affairs connected with a party.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Still, after Antoni Macierewicz it seemed that the practice of appointing ministers of internal affairs free of party affiliation would be established.

[Siemiatkowski] Such a candidate was pointed to by the president. That was Jerzy Konieczny, who has in an unprecedented way been destroyed by the opposition and by some of the media.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] As well as by Prime Minister Cimoszewicz.

[Siemiatkowski] The prime minister was probably taking into account the opinion of the press and the opposition.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] You have many times declared yourself an enemy of the rule "Winner takes all." You were against filling the posts in the MSW according to party arrangements. And now you have found yourself in the MSW due to such an arrangement.

[Siemiatkowski] Yes, I consider it valuable that the MSW, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MSZ], and the Ministry of National Defense [MON] were headed by nonpartisan professionals. With the MSW this did not work because there were not many people willing to assume the post. That is why the decision was made for me to assume the post.

Therefore, at the first meeting with the MSW managing staff, I said: "The only politician in the ministry is me. I will represent the department in contacts with the main organs of the government. All others are officials and functionaries who yesterday worked with Milczanowski, today with me, and tomorrow with somebody else.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] So, for you it is not a problem that you are a member of SdRP management?

[Siemiatkowski] It is. If I were not a member of the SdRP, I might have been given greater trust at the start. Now the trust is nonexistent, and this is an additional challenge for me, a challenge I hope I will be able to meet.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Who is more important for you—Prime Minister Cimoszewicz or Chairman Oleksy?

[Siemiatkowski] Obviously, the prime minister. I am governed in my work by the bill on the office of minister of internal affairs and not by the SdRP statute. A collision of these two is out of the question.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] If it turns out that Oleksy has broken the law, will you bring yourself to take decisive action, or, according to the pattern set by former Minister Jaskiernia, will you defer action and search for legal changes?

[Siemiatkowski] One of the conditions I laid down on accepting this post was that I was to be trusted absolutely by both the president and the prime minister. If I have to act against the law, I will quit.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] How did you feel when the Sejm Commission for Internal Affairs accepted you as head of the MSW by one vote?

[Siemiatkowski] I felt that it could have been worse. I had not expected my colleagues from the PSL to walk out at the time of voting, demonstrating disapproval of my person. I do not understand such inconsistency, inasmuch as at the coalition meeting PSL leaders voted unanimously for me.

This was an unpleasant situation. But I believe that, if something starts badly, it will end well.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Lately you have become a very uncompromising supporter of vetting. And not long ago you were saying: "The archives should be sealed and not reopened." Where does the change come from?

[Siemiatkowski] Today the situation is different from what it was during the time of Macierewicz. More than half of society supports vetting and does not wish to have among deputies and ministers people who cooperated with the Security Service [SB]. My circle has accustomed itself to the idea that civilized vetting is unavoidable.

Still, I am an enemy of vetting that would destroy people. That is why the president's project does not envision any sanctions, and a person suspected of cooperation with the SB would have a chance to clear himself of the accusations.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] The issue of vetting gathered momentum when the Oleksy case broke out.

[Siemiatkowski] The president disclosed his vetting plans right after his return from Brussels. On the plane he read the article in the WPROST weekly in

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which the names "Minim" and "Kat" [codenames for alleged agents] were mentioned. It is necessary to set up supervision of the MSW and SB archives by an independent institution.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Why is it that the presidential project of vetting presented by you to the Sejm does not envision vetting priests?

[Siemiatkowski] ??? [as published]

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Yet you demanded that during the work of the Sejm commission in 1993.

[Siemiatkowski] Then I did not find a better way to point out the absurdity of the vetting ideas of that time. When the Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN] proposed vetting teachers because they have an influence on the spiritual life of the nation, I volunteered priests because their influence is even bigger.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] People from political circles maintain that you are Kwasniewski's man.

[Siemiatkowski] I am very strongly connected with President Kwasniewski, both politically and emotionally. But I also have known Prime Minister Cimoszewicz for 20 years, since university days. I agreed to be the minister because Cimoszewic, in fact, is the prime minister, not somebody else.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And do you have ties to Andrzej Anklewicz, too?

[Siemiatkowski] You will be surprised. I studied with Anklewicz.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] At the Department of Political Sciences of Warsaw University. Anklewicz was your colleague from a party organization, and now he is your prime deputy.

[Siemiatkowski] I have received a stern rebuke for [my attitude toward] Anklewicz, but I will defend him as an official and functionary.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And what is Anklewicz rebuked for?

[Siemiatkowski] He is not liked. But if someone was checked with positive results in 1990 and then took part in one of the most dangerous actions of the Polish counterintelligence service, if he was chosen for high posts by subsequent ministers of Solidarity origins...

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] If [former] Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy made him the head of his advisers, this meant what?

[Siemiatkowski] This meant that he was a high class specialist who knows the inside of the department as not many people do. And I would like to dispel a myth: Anklewicz was never a high-ranking officer of the SB; he only served in the rank of second lieutenant.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] At sessions of the political advisory committee, you supported requests by SB functionaries who had been checked with negative results and then wanted to regain their jobs. Will you now make their return to the department possible?

[Siemiatkowski] Even if I wanted to, I would not have that possibility because the 1990 bill, which says that one can be employed by UOP only on the condition that he has been approved by a checkup commission, is still binding.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And would you like to be able to do that?

[Siemiatkowski] To be honest, in my opinion not all of the people who have been rejected due to checks deserved being out of UOP. Their qualifications would be very useful. Intelligence officers say that there are a couple of very talented and experienced men who were rejected in a mechanical way because they had worked for the 11th Section of the First Department of the MSW, the one that dealt with surveillance of emigre circles. From the principle, it was accepted that everybody from this department should be rejected during the checkup. Is it good that today they work for private companies? Would it not be better to find a formula due to which they would be able to work for the state?

Requests to the political advisory committee referred to particular cases. Milczanowski asked for our opinion, and I expressed my views. But I never said it is necessary to allow a mass return of people from the SB.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And are you not afraid that these people could turn out to be disloyal toward the Third Polish Republic?

[Siemiatkowski] I do not have grounds to be afraid of that. One cannot stipulate that a person who has been rejected is not a patriot today and does not deserve to be trusted. Still, legally, today there is no possibility of their return. And I do not aspire to overturn the current of the times.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Would you support restoring the veterans' rights of those who "supported the rule of the people" working in the Internal Security Corps [KBW until 1966], the Security Administration [UB], and the SB?

[Siemiatkowski] I am against collective responsibility. The SLD wanted to meet halfway those people who

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had a glorious military record starting in 1939, and then fate directed them to accept executive functions in the mechanism of repression in the years 1944-56. They were drivers, worked in offices, and now automatically have been deprived of veterans' rights. For example, the fourth division bearing the name of Kilinski, due to a single order was transformed into the KBW; and some who served there for a couple of months, until demobilization, do not have veterans' rights, although they fought in all major battles all the way from Sielce to Berlin as soldiers of the Polish People's Army. I would never suggest restoring veterans' rights to people who worked in the 10th Department or in the investigating department.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Someone said that information leaks from UOP like water from leaky guttering.

[Siemiatkowski] An investigation is being carried on that was initiated by my predecessors. The prosecutor's office has arrested one UOP officer who was caught stealing some classified documents of "special importance." My predecessors have created a special group in order to seal the leaks in the office.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] How it is that, in the Oleksy case, the preparatory proceedings are advancing at a snail's pace, while the perpetrator of the leaks is already under arrest.

[Siemiatkowski] The Oleksy case is under the authority of the public prosecutor's office, and the pace of the investigation does not depend upon us. We will execute all activities commissioned for us by the prosecutor's office, but so far we have not been commissioned to do anything. By order of the prosecutor's office, I am exempting officers from the duty of preserving secrecy so they can testify as witnesses in the case. There are already a dozen of them on the prosecutor's list.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] A former head of counterintelligence, Colonel Konstanty Miodowicz, maintains that exhaustive materials about the officers who have been giving state secrets to the NIE weekly can be found in the materials prepared by the former UOP management. Can we expect that these officers will suffer appropriate consequences?

[Siemiatkowski] Functionaries who are proved guilty of passing secret information, no matter whether they delivered it to NIE or WPROST, cannot count on leniency from the management of UOP or the MSW.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Prime Minister Cimoszewicz has declared that he is ready to disclose materials connected with the case of the loan made by the CPSU to the SDRP. Are you afraid of that?

[Siemiatkowski] Not at all. When I receive instructions from the prime minister, an appropriate procedure will be initiated immediately.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] In 1993, the SLD defended Leszek Miller [current head of the Office of the Council of Ministers] in the case of the Moscow loan. You warned then that your party would use any legal means to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the prosecutors who were very actively involved in the investigation. Are you now going to present the UOP officers who were working on that case with disciplinary punishment?

[Siemiatkowski] Even if I wanted to do that, I could not; it would be suicide. They were executing orders, because, as functionaries, they had to execute them, as long as the orders were given in accordance with the law.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Will you accept the resignation of the head of UOP, General Gromoslaw Czempinski?

[Siemiatkowski] Gen. Czempinski has submitted his resignation to Minister Koniecznly and confirmed it in a conversation with me. We have agreed that, if he leaves, it will not be a matter of days. We will wait until a person is found that could be entrusted with his duties. Czempinski was engaged in the Oleksy case only during the late stages, though for a part of public opinion he is a guarantee that the case will not be hushed up. I earnestly encourage him not to leave UOP. He is one of those wonderful operational officers and could be useful in another position, not necessarily that of head of UOP. Gen. Czempinski should think about it.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Who will take his place, a politician or an officer?

[Siemiatkowski] I am the only politician in this department. I have not specified my choice yet. There are a dozen good officers who could be the head of UOP, pro tempore.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Why pro tempore?

[Siemiatkowski] Because I am going to move intelligence and counterintelligence out of the MSW structures in order that they be directly subordinate to the prime minister. I suppose this could take six to eight months.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Do you think that, if the UOP were subordinate to the prime minister, it could disclose cooperation of that prime minister with foreign Intelligence?

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[Siemiatkowski] I would like UOP to be subordinate not only to the prime minister but also to a mixed presidential-government-parliamentary body. This could be the Council of Ministers Committee for Special Services or the Council of National Security aiding the president and gathering representatives of the most important political forces.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And who will replace Deputy Interior Minister Jerzy Zimowski?

[Siemiatkowski] This is a place for the Peasant Party [PSL], which for a long time has strived for this post. I have set up requirements that should be met by a person of this rank: a lawyer, with administrative experience, competent in legislative matters and contacts with the parliament.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Then you do not have influence over the choice of your deputy?

[Siemiatkowski] I will not sign the nomination documents for a person who does not fill my requirements.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] What do you want to change in the MSW?

[Siemiatkowski] There are 1,600 jobs in the civilian part of the MSW. Maybe some of the jobs could be transferred to line units. Today an operational officer makes the same money as his colleague of the same rank in the logistic services. That is why people prefer to stay in administrative and economic offices, rather than running and wrangling with people as an officer of intelligence or counterintelligence. This should be stopped, and mechanisms of incentives should be created.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Who has checked up on candidates for ministers in the government of Cimoszewicz?

[Siemiatkowski] Minister Konieczny.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] The checkup procedure took probably one day.

[Siemiatkowski] I could check up on you, lady, in 15 minutes. This is only a question of throwing a card into the computer, and a bit later it will be found out whether you are registered in the archives, what exists about you, and where to look for that information.

[GAZETA] Then checking up on the candidates for the government's jobs refers only to the archives of the MSW. And what about outstanding taxes or warrants of arrest? You remember the case of Krzysztof Baszniak? The post of deputy minister of labor in Pawlak's government went to a person whom the public prosecutor's office had been investigating for extortion of credits and faking documents.

[Siemiatkowski] He was only a deputy minister. Anyway, I have not conducted a checkup yet.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] If you found yourself in the place of [former Minister] Milcznowski, how would you have behaved regarding the Oleksy case?

[Siemiatkowski] I would prefer not to be in his place. I would have behaved in a respectable way.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] And, in your opinion, did Milczanowski behave in an unrespectable way?

[Siemiatkowski] I will not answer that until I have seen the public prosecutor's stance.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Please, do not wrangle out.

[Siemiatkowski] I would have behaved in a way envisioned by the procedures. I have told the officers who deal with organized crime: If you come across matters connected with a political circle, then, no matter if they are reds, greens, or "blacks," you are obliged to deliver to me everything and demand a document showing that the materials have been handed to me. And I will not hesitate to use them according to procedures.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Colleagues from your party will kill you.

[Siemiatkowski] You are stipulating that there is no one but thieves and embezzlers in my party. I have a better opinion of my colleagues. Though, if someone has become entangled, he will be punished to made an example of.

Poland: Former Intelligence Chief Interviewed

WS0503093996 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 2-3 Mar 96 pp 11, 22

[Interview with General Gromoslaw Czempinski, former head of the Office of State Protection, by Anna Marszalek; place and date not given: "I Did What I Should Have Done"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Marszalek] As you are leaving the Office of State Protection [UOP], allegations are being leveled that you were unable to keep a tight rein over UOP. The Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] believes that you failed to object to what you disagreed with and to what you disliked. Even though the opposition is defending you, this defense practically boils down to the opinion that there should be no changes until the "Oleksy case" is clarified.

[Czempinski] This is a result of looking at the whole issue from one point of view only. After all, UOP is part

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of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MSW], and it is the internal affairs minister who makes the final decisions.

[Marszalek] It is no secret that your view on the "Oleksy case" differed from the one expressed by the head of the ministry. Were you unable to or did you not want to oppose [former Internal Affairs] Minister Milczanowski?

[Czempinski] Of course I could oppose him. It was not easy for a person with my record to oppose such a charismatic minister as Andrzej Milczanowski; despite that, we often had very sharp talks, almost fighting with each other. However, the minister had the right to hear many opinions and do what he considered best.

[Marszalek] Are you saying that you passively agreed to your opinion being ignored? Now, if you differed on fundamental issues that are of consequence to both the state and the services themselves, you could have tendered your resignation. As deputies of the extraordinary Sejm commission revealed, you were against sending the "Oleksy case" to the prosecutor's office.

[Czempinski] It is still too early to talk about this; let us wait for the prosecutor's decision. As for my resignation, I suggested to Minister Milczanowski on several occasions that I might leave. I would not like this to be associated with the "Oleksy case."

[Marszalek] What about the consequences of this issue?

[Czempinski] I predicted them very precisely.

[Marszalek] Are you talking about the decision made by the prosecutor's office?

[Czempinski] No, I am talking about the political consequences. However, I can predict the prosecutor's decision as well.

[Marszalek] Discontinuance of the proceedings?

[Czempinski] I cannot answer this question; it would mean exerting influence on the prosecutor's office. Let us just wait for the decision.

[Marszalek] Do you feel you did not fully control UOP, which the SLD is accusing you of? SLD politicians claim that many things were going on in UOP that you were not aware of.

[Czempinski] [Internal Affairs] Minister Siemiatkowski also did many things I was not aware of. This means that he is taking advantage of what he is criticizing me for. However, the issue related to the leaks is only of marginal importance; we will always have this problem. After all, various people are working here, and this cannot be limited by any administrative orders.

[Marszalek] If it is only marginal, why did you list it as the primary reason for your resignation?

[Czempinski] I thought the new minister was entitled to select his employees himself.

[Marszalek] Do you regret signing that motion? By doing that, you made it easier for the SLD to make its decision. Now SLD politicians are saying "After all, you have asked for it," and you feel you have failed to "complete something you started."

[Czempinski] Perhaps I should not have submitted that motion, but, after a talk with President Kwasniewski, I did not have any doubts whatsoever that I would have difficulties keeping this post. The president accused me of letting the leaks get out of hand; as the UOP head, I assumed responsibility for them.

[Marszalek] What results did the investigation of the sources of the leaks yield?

[Czempinski] I must say that we made considerable progress.

[Marszalek] Does this mean that you more or less know who leaked the information but you do not have the proof?

[Czempinski] I must be absolutely certain. I would not like to talk about proof. The material we have is quite extensive.

[Marszalek] How many leaks were there?

[Czempinski] There were only a few cases.

[Marszalek] Was the information leaked to the press or to politicians?

[Czempinski] I have reason to believe that some of the information was leaked to the press.

[Marszalek] Please tell us about secret agents working among journalists.

[Czempinski] If we had secret agents working in the press, it would not be a problem to find the sources of the leaks. I banned the recruitment of informants among journalists.

[Marszalek] Then why did Minister Siemiatkowski and other SLD politicians talk about this?

[Czempinski] Minister Siemiatkowski did not receive any list of names of secret collaborators working in the press from UOP.

[Marszalek] Senator Kozlowski said that, while working in intelligence, you risked your life for the Third Republic. The operation involving the smuggling of CIA agents out of Iraq was attributed almost exclusively

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to General Henryk Jasik, who was in charge of the intelligence services at that time. So far we have not written about your participation in this operation because there was a real threat to your security. It is seen as a classical intelligence operation, and it is certainly analyzed in the Kiejkuty school [a school in the north of Poland where employees of special services are trained].

[Czempinski] Let this remain in the sphere of speculation. Various intelligence services are waiting for the details of this operation. I want to stress that the action we took at that time was not directed against Iraq or against the Iraqi special services. It was just a humanitarian, not a military gesture. Quite simply, we were able to help people who had found themselves in deep water. In such situations, we can always be counted upon.

[Marszalek] You became UOP head in December 1993, when all the media were interested in the so-called container affair (Irish terrorists wanted to buy weapons in Poland). Together with the British special services, UOP carried out an operation that was to result in detaining people linked to this terrorist organization. The media decided at that time that it was an unsuccessful provocation attempt on the part of UOP. Was it really a success of the Polish special services?

[Czempinski] I have no doubts whatsoever that it was a success, but I cannot offer any details of this operation. I proved at that time that the Polish arms trade market was not as open as some people thought it was and that it was not so easy to illegally buy arms here or to smuggle weapons out of the country. We proved that we are able to guard our borders, our sovereignty, and the law.

[Marszalek] Why did you fail to detain the terrorists?

[Czempinski] This was a small mistake, which happens sometimes.

[Marszalek] Was it your mistake?

[Czempinski] No, it was a mistake made by the British.

[Marszalek] As is known, as deputy UOP head for operational issues, you masterminded the operation, and you were the direct supervisor. You invented a provocation that, in fact, was no provocation because these weapons never left Poland. What did you put in the containers?

[Czempinski] We used a ploy then that I cannot disclose. I believe that it was a success of the entire team, not only of mine.

[Marszalek] You initiated establishing a directorate in UOP that would deal with economic issues. How advanced is the work now?

[Czempinski] The idea was presented after the Oleksy Cabinet was formed. We set up a special section for economic issues and similar sections in the branch offices. Establishment of a special directorate required money. This year we received it to employ more people; I believe we will be able to set up this directorate.

[Marszalek] Is this still valid now that there has been talk of excluding UOP from the MSW structure?

[Czempinski] Yes, it is. We will be doing this at the same time.

[Marszalek] You say "we," even though you are no longer the UOP head?

[Czempinski] When I say "we," I mean UOP. The services were my passion; I spent 20 years there, including five in UOP.

[Marszalek] What are you going to do after you leave office?

[Czempinski] I do not know yet. Another of my passions is aviation. I will fly planes, even though I am an amateur in that field. Besides, I may be active in the aviation industry. I also want to say that I am certainly leaving UOP, and I will definitely not be employed as an "i" ("illegal") in any company. I am sorry that I am leaving the office because I loved what I was doing there; I will not conceal that I feel I could do more. I do not know how I will cope with things outside of intelligence, but I feel like a man in his prime. Life will go on.

[Marszalek] Did anyone thank you for what you did after you tendered your resignation?

[Czempinski] In UOP I did what I should have done.

Poland: Walesa To Lecture in Denmark, Sweden; U.S. Next

WS0503124896 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 5 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Agnieszka Kublik: "The Former President's New Role; the World According to Lech Walesa"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow Lech Walesa is leaving for Denmark and Sweden to deliver a series of lectures on the political situation in Europe. This will be his debut in a new role. Walesa is joining the club of former statesmen touring the world with lectures.

Walesa's host in Copenhagen is the Boersen Exclusive Club, which groups 850 representatives of the central administration and managers of huge companies. He will deliver a lecture in the 400-year-old building of the stock exchange, where speeches were delivered by,

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among others, Margaret Thatcher, George Bush, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and Jimmy Carter.

On the same day in the evening, Walesa will arrive in Stockholm, where he will attend a formal dinner hosted by a club associated with the SVENSKA DAGBLADET daily (one of the largest Swedish dailies) grouping politicians, businessmen, and journalists. On 7 March they will hear a lecture entitled "Transformations in Europe; Past, Present, and Future in the Eyes of Lech Walesa."

The organizers cover travel expenses and accommodation costs of the former president. Heads of state usually earn handsome sums for such lectures. Margaret Thatcher, for example, received $60,000.

Walesa has decided that the money he earns be handed over as a donation to the Lech Walesa Institute Fund. We were unable to find out what the sum might be, but it will probably be tens of thousands of dollars.

Speeches delivered by heads of state are usually written by their aides. It is no secret that the best of Walesa's speeches were written by Andrzej Zakrzewski, Marek Karpinski, and Andrzej Ananicz. Walesa, however, always decides what the final shape of the text is to be and is a very harsh critic. His colleagues maintain that "satisfactory plus" is the highest grade he gives.

In the first days of April, Walesa is to tour the United States with a series of lectures on political developments in Central and East Europe.

Poland: Walesa Encourages Right-Wing Cooperation

WS0503143496 Warsaw GAZETA SWIATECZNA in Polish 2-3 Mar 96 p 2

[Report by "WZ": "Walesa Becomes Patron of Civil Patriotic Movement; We Are Strong as a Horse"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] *"We are behaving like a horse that is strong but unaware of his strength. If it discovered its strength, the present drivers would have fallen off the cart a long time ago," said Lech Walesa in Warsaw yesterday, encouraging the post-Solidarity camp to cooperate.*

A few hundred founders of the Civil Patriotic Movement association welcomed him very warmly. They offered him a certificate making him an honorary patron.

The movement was set up by members of Walesa's campaign staffs: members of Solidarity, right-wing parties, as well as people who do not belong to any party. "We do not agree to confining you to the pages of history books," Waclaw Jez told Walesa. [passage omitted]

The former president listed three goals: He is going to act in favor of Poland's integration into NATO and the EU, help the post-Solidarity camp win the constitutional referendum, and then help it win the parliamentary elections.

He believes that he knows how to encourage the opposition parties to cooperate among themselves: "I will send letters to the biggest parties and ask them to enumerate the 10 most important problems that need to be resolved. Then it will turn out that all of them have chosen five common issues. No one will be able to back out then."

He believes that it is necessary to prepare at least two electoral tickets, one on the left and the other one right of center. "If there is cooperation, solidarity parties will obtain seats in the Sejm and all of them will benefit; if there is no cooperation, all of them will lose out," Walesa said.

At the improvised news conference, journalists asked him whether the resignation of Gromoslaw Czempinski as head of the Office of State Protection will make it more difficult to clarify the Oleksy case. "These people are trying to blur everything, but they will not pull it off." Walesa said that the post-Solidarity camp would return to power and clarify everything completely. "Today Oleksy and a few other people would be called to account for their actions, but, in the end, those who are blurring things will also be held responsible," he warned. [passage omitted]

Poland: UW Adjusts Policy in Preparation for Elections

WS0403150096 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 4 Mar 96 p 4

[Article by Piotr Wesolowski in Lodz: "Geremek on the Freedom Union's Strategy; Voters From Small Towns"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The promotion of a sensible tax system, support for the decentralization of the state, a strong appeal to the young generation and inhabitants of medium-sized and small cities.*

Such is the strategy of the Freedom Union [UW] for the next few months, as outlined by one of its leaders, Bronislaw Geremek.

Geremek attended a meeting held on 2 March in Lodz with UW activists from the Lodz, Sieradz, and Piotrkow Trybunalski voivodships. Everyone agreed that the success of the party depends on whether it is capable of canvasing the support of voters in medium-sized and small towns. "We deserve criticism because so far Warsaw has had too much influence on the party.

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We have to be loyal to the communities that supported us from the very beginning—the intelligentsia and the public sector," Geremek appealed.

He claims that the post-Solidarity camp can succeed in the parliamentary elections only if it forms a large coalition. "The first stage would be a nonaggression pact between the post-Solidarity politicians, the second elaborating a very basic platform, the third forming the broadest possible coalition," Geremek argued. "Neither the Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland nor the Christian-National Union, however, is showing any goodwill to develop a rudimentary platform."

Commenting on an interview [UW Deputy] Jan Maria Rokita gave for the POLITYKA weekly, in which he stated that the UW and the entire post-Solidarity camp is doomed to failure, Geremek said: "Whenever round dates approach, apocalyptic visions abound. Jan Maria Rokita gave in to that trend."

Poland: Kwasniewski Favors Foreign Capital Investment

LD0403200896 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Aleksander Kwasniewski appealed for agreement on the matter of ownership transformations at a meeting with representatives from the government, parliamentary groups, and trade unions. According to the president, privatization has to contribute to the reform of the social security system, the restructuring of the strategic sectors of the economy, and the reform of the banking system. The president's idea was that today's meeting, among other things, was supposed to reply to the question on how to carry out privatization, taking account of the enfranchisement referendum.

[Begin Kwasniewski recording] It certainly transpires from the referendum that there is support for privatization processes. It would be an abuse to read the referendum results differently, that the society's will is different. One certainly has to agree that macroeconomic results should constitute criteria for the assessment of privatization processes: to what extent these processes allow economic growth to be maintained, to increase the stability of public finances, to increase technological possibilities and competitiveness of the Polish economy, to create jobs, and so on.

However, the microeconomic scale is also important—that is, to what extent privatization can help a specific enterprise obtain the influx of technology and resources and so forth.

Of course, the social aspect is also very important. We should translate into the language of specific detail what has been contained in the phrase enfranchisement, which is still not fully understood, and what undoubtedly corresponds to the everyday needs of the people, which they are increasingly more aware of. [end recording]

Aleksander Kwasniewski said that the meeting participants were in agreement that privatization should serve the fulfillment of demands from the budget sector and pensioners, that it should be used as part of the reform of the social security system, and that, in order to carry it out properly, an influx of foreign capital was needed. According to the president, a consensus was needed on the last issue.

[Begin Kwasniewski recording] I think we should say clearly that today, taking into account the long years of economic crisis and barriers put against Poland in the 1980's—for example, in the form of political obstacles preventing the import of the most modern technologies—foreign capital is today an indispensable factor in the modernization of Poland's economy, both in technological progress and in the creation of jobs, as well as in improving competitiveness in the world. Of course, this should be based on clear rules. This should be public and without any ambiguities, doubts, and negative burdens that may be present. However, it would be a very bad thing if, on each occasion when we discussed privatization and enfranchisement, we were to send signals to the world that the atmosphere around the issue of foreign capital was beginning to be strange again. [end recording]

Poland: Minister Buchacz on East-West Summit

WS0403155696 Warsaw NOWA EUROPA in Polish 4 Mar 96 p 2

[Article by Urszula Kujawska: "Minister Buchacz Exclusively for NOWA EUROPA; Polish Hopes for the Baltimore Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I am going to Baltimore with pleasure. The agenda shows that, apart from [U.S. Secretary of Commerce] Brown, I will be the only minister to speak on the government and business forum as well as during a formal dinner. This is a manifestation of recognition of what Poland has done for the initiative," Foreign Economic Cooperation Minister Jacek Buchacz told NOWA EUROPA.

"During a meeting held in Warsaw in 1994, we provided the East-West Initiative with new stimuli. That process will be continued in Baltimore. The summit provides an opportunity to meet with each head of state and hold bilateral talks. Our membership in the OECD will be discussed as well," added the minister.

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"In the course of talks with the United States, we want to have the General System of Preferences (GSP) amended. It is not yet effective because the U.S. budget has not been passed," said Buchacz. "This would confirm that Poland is treated as one of the big emerging markets. If we join forces with the remaining countries of our region that are members of the Initiative and exert pressure on the U.S. Administration—in particular, the U.S. Congress—perhaps the system could be amended without waiting for the final approval of the U.S. budget," the minister stressed.

"Moreover, we hope we will be able to present new problems pertaining to cooperation between those states, which should become the topic of discussion at the next G-7 and E-14 summit that is to be held most probably in Prague. Recent developments indicate that Russia will soon join the group, marking a huge qualitative change in mutual relations," he added.

"The agenda also provides for interesting meetings in California. This is unknown territory for our businessmen, just like Poland is unknown territory for the Californian businessman. Our contacts to date never made it past the East Coast, and I believe it is high time we explored the possibilities in California," said Minister Buchacz.

Poland: Polish Radio, Radio Vatican Sign Agreement

LD0403143796 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1300 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Krzysztof Michalski, chairman of Polish Radio, and Father Pasquale Borgomeo, director general of Radio Vatican, today signed an agreement between the radio stations. The agreement relates to the retransmission of Vatican Radio news bulletins, opportunities to make use of the archives of this radio station, and the coverage of the apostolic journeys of John Paul II. Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek [secretary general of the Polish Episcopate], who was present at the signing of the document, said the agreement enriches the range of programs Polish Radio has on offer. [passage omitted]

Poland: WPROST Reporter Victim of Arson Attack

WS0403135896 Warsaw SZTANDAR in Polish 4 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Reporter Attacked"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The apartment of Jerzy Slawomir Mac, a reporter working for the WPROST weekly, was set on fire in the Chomiczowka district in Warsaw early Saturday morning. The fire was extinguished by the fire department. No one was hurt. The arsonists were not captured.

Jerzy Slawomir Mac is a coauthor of reports on the Oleksy case, the financial and economic connections of the Democratic Left Alliance, and the Moscow loan issue [money borrowed from the CPSU]. The reporter has no doubts whatsoever that the arson attack was carried out in connection with these publications.

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Romania: UDMR Lists Candidates for Media Boards

LD0203222296 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [UDMR] has drawn up a list of personalities from whom Hungary can choose members into its media boards of trustees. Peter Marvanyi reports from Cluj-Napoca:

[Marvanyi] The UDMR coordinating council has taken the stance that on the establishment in Hungary of institutions which will affect the lives of [ethnic] Hungarians beyond the border it is necessary to consult the relevant ethnic organizations if the participation of the minorities is required [in these boards]. The stance does not mention any name or Duna TV [satellite channel broadcasting for Hungarians beyond the borders].

However, at a press briefing held by the Romanian Association of Hungarian Journalists this morning, UDMR chairman Bela Marko not only mentioned the issue of principle, that he was of the view that a decision had been taken without their having been consulted, but he also said that they had serious personal reservations about Geza Szoecs, who was elected onto the leadership of the Hungaria Public Foundation [supervising Duna TV].

The union's coordinating council adopted a list of those whom UDMR suggests should become members of the board of trustees when it becomes clear how many people and how they can represent Hungarians living in Romania in this body. The list includes, among others, Gabor Adam, [film] director; Samuel Benkoe, chairman of the Transylvanian Museum Society; Arpad Farkas, writer; and Zsolt Galfalvi, editor in chief of the monthly A HET [THE WEEK].

Romania: UDMR Official on Iliescu's Conciliation Proposal

AU0403140296 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 1 Mar 96 pp 1, 3

[Article by Laszlo Botos: "RMDSZ Opinion on Iliescu's Proposal—This Is Deception"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Romanian-Hungarian expert talks in connection with Ion Iliescu's historic conciliation documents and the code of conduct toward national minorities have been continued in recent days in Bucharest. Opinions are very divided on Iliescu's proposals in Romania and abroad, too. Among the other views, the opinion of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania [RMDSZ; UDMR in Romanian] is also important—this represents the Hungarian community that is affected by Romanian-Hungarian interstate relations. We asked the opinion of an important politician from the Szeklers' Land on this issue.

Antal Nemes, chairman of the RMDSZ Sepsiszek [St. Gheorghe region] area organization, told UJ MAGYARORSZAG: Iliescu's proposal on historic conciliation is deceptive, a mystification, and a waste of time—wasted expenses, travels between Budapest and Bucharest. We have to cleary understand that the Romanian power is dishonestly lying. For example, what kind of "historic conciliation" is the one in which they do not want to allow the 2 million strong Hungarian minority to have their children taught about their own national history and geography in their mother tongue? If the Romanian-Hungarian historic conciliation is honest then let me list its main conditions. First of all, legal guarantees are needed for the demands and rights of Romania's Hungarian community to be respected, Nemes said. For 77 years, the Romanian power has been making promises but very few of these have been implemented. Conciliation could immediately be achieved if the confiscated schools and church property were returned to Romania's Hungarians, if education in the mother tongue was made possible at all levels as it used to be, and if the Bolyai University and the former Hungarian faculties were restored and, in addition to these, if education in technical institutes and vocational secondary schools in the mother tongue was provided; if it was made possible to use the mother tongue in state administration, in jurisdiction, and self-administration—at least in places where the proportion of the Hungarians reaches a certain level, not mentioning the areas where they are in majority. Citizens whose mother tongue is Hungarian should be employed in the army, the police, and at the security organizations, and it should be made possible for Hungarians also to reach the highest ranks.... Well, if these become possible then true conciliation will be reached very quickly.

[Botos] Can you see a danger that both the Hungarian Government and the Romanian Government want to bypass the RMDSZ and the Hungarians in Romania in the process of the conciliation talks?

[Nemes] This danger exists. I cannot agree with an agreement and with Romanian-Hungarian conciliation talks from which the RMDSZ, representatives of Romania's Hungarians are excluded. The same way, I cannot agree with the fact that the Hungarians in Romania and the Romanians in Hungary are treated on an equal level. The latter have completely different problems and they live dispersed, in rather small groups. Their situation cannot be compared to those of the Hungarians in the Szeklers' Land. And they do not suffer as many nationalist attacks as the Hungarians in Romania. I saw the

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Romanian national flag hoisted in the Romanian training school in Gyula [southern Hungary] but this did not offend the Hungarians....

There is a realistic danger that, through Iliescu's deceptive conciliation proposal, which is to mislead the world, the Hungarian Government will also walk into the trap.

Romania: PUNR Chairman Issues Anti-Hungarian Statement

LD0303231596 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2100 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gheorghe Funar, mayor of Cluj-Napoca and chairman of the Romanian National Unity Party, [PUNR], who is widely known for his extremist views, has again sharply attacked Hungary. Peter Marvanyi reports from Tirgu Mures:

[Marvanyi] In his statement issued tonight, Funar demands the immediate suspension of the Hungarian-Romanian talks on reconciliation and the basic treaty. According to the statement, talks should only be restarted if Hungary and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [UDMR] wind up the so-called illegal, paramilitary organization, terminate the Transylvanian Hungarian government, parliament and secret service, abandon plans on personal and territorial autonomy, ethnic-based school separatism, and give up political actions against Romania and the Romanian people.

As conditions for talks, Funar demands that Hungary and the UDMR should take a position against Recommendation No. 1201 by the Council of Europe, force UDMR members and sympathizers to learn the Romanian language, stop the process of Hungarianization [elmagyarositas] of Romanians living in Hungary and admit atrocities committed after the Vienna dictate.

The party chairman calls on the Romanian president and the prime minister to prevent by appropriate measures the humiliation of the Romanian nation on 15 March by the successors of those who fled to Europe 1000 years ago.

According to Funar, those who want to celebrate on 15 March should, through the open borders, go to Hungary, where visitors and those who want to settle at home will be welcome.

At the same time, the PUNR chairman calls on the Romanian intelligence service to prepare a parliamentary report about the UDMR's economic, military and political campaigns against the united Romanian nation state and constitutional state.

Romania: UDMR Insists on Settlement of Minority Issue

LD0403223196 Budapest Duna TV in Hungarian 2000 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Romanian Foreign Minister Theodor Melescanu met a four-member delegation of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [UDMR], led by Chairman Bela Marko, this afternoon. They primarily discussed the [Hungarian-Romanian] basic treaty and the reconciliation proposal.

During their talks Marko told the Romanian foreign minister that the UDMR's position on these problems remained unchanged. That is to say, according to representatives of the Hungarian community of Romania, the basic treaty will only be able to contribute to the improvement of bilateral relations, if it includes norms guaranteeing a solution to the problems of the Hungarian community in Romania—including Recommendation No. 1201 [by the Council of Europe].

The UDMR also considered important that the charter on local autonomies and the use of regional and minority languages be ratified and proposed that an institutional form of dialogue be established with the participation of the UDMR, the Romanian government, the presidential office and other decisionmaking forums in order to solve the problems raised by them.

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Federal

FRY: Opposition Confirms Plans for Belgrade Protests

LD0403145796 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1405 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 4 Mar (SRNA)—The chairmen of the Democratic Party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, and the Civic Alliance of Serbia, Zoran Djindjic, Vuk Draskovic and Vesna Pesic, confirmed today their parties' participation in the demonstrations in Belgrade on 9 March.

At a joint news conference, Djindjic stressed that preparations to mark the fifth anniversary of the March [1991] demonstrations were being completed, and called on all citizens who favor "changes leading to a European Serbia" to attend the rally at Republic Square on 9 March. [passage omitted]

It was announced at the news conference that Novak Kilibarda, chairman of the People's Party, would attend the 9 March demonstrations on behalf of Montenegro's opposition.

FRY: Economic Cooperation With Hungary Increasing

LD0403170296 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1509 GMT 4 Mar 96

["Ecopool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Budapest, March 4 (TANJUG)—Economic cooperation between Hungary and Yugoslavia is on a steady rise and may reach between 250 million and 300 million dollars, according to estimates by Hungrian businessmen.

An agreement has been drafted to this end by Budapest Eximbank and Belgrade Jugobanka. The agreement is to be officially signed this week.

Belgrade Beobanka, Vojvodjanska Banka of Novi Sad, capital of Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina, are later to get included into the agreement which would facilitate business cooperation between Hungarian and Yugoslav firms.

At a symposium in the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Eximbank Director and Director of Hungarian Society for Export Insurance (MOHIB) Ivan Nyiri said that this financial institution had already secured 65 billion forint (about half a billion dollars) to finance Hungary's export to Yugoslavia.

He said Eximbank was prepared to give dollar loans to Yugoslav buyers over several years at a 6.6 per cent interest.

MOHIB was first to accept to insure exports to Hungary's southern neighborhood.

Hungary expects to close the year with one billion dollars in foreign earnings from trade with republics of the former Yugoslavia, or by one-third more than before the outbreak of war in these areas.

Serbia

Serbia: Martic Threatens Armed Response to Arrest

AU0403220896 Belgrade TELEGRAF in Serbo-Croatian 28 Feb 96 pp 12-13

[Interview with Milan Martic, president of the Republic of Serb Krajina, by Djoko Kesic in Banja Luka; date not given: "I Do Not Recognize the The Hague Tribunal; It Is a Political Court for Me and My People, and It Is Clear That in Case of Arrest I Would Be Handed Over to the Croats. If Need Be, I Shall Defend Myself With the Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reliable information at the Serb Republic [RS] Government's disposal, relevant institutions of the international community have dispatched via coded mail an order, marked "urgent" to the Implementation Force [IFOR] to arrest Republic of Serb Krajina President Milan Martic. The urgency was necessitated by the current dates set for witness hearings at the Tribunal in The Hague in the case of Milan Martic. The hearings are to be held on 27 through 29 February, TELEGRAF was exclusively told by Miro Mladjenovic, assistant information minister in the RS Government.

Despite the people's and the RS official stance, as well as the stance of its state institutions regarding the nonrecognition of the decisions and initiatives of the so-called Hague Tribunal, IFOR forces in Banja Luka and wider have lately been carrying out provocative helicopter overflights over official buildings, residencies, and houses in which President Martic is currently residing, obviously announcing that the execution of the order has started. Since these activities are being implemented over the city and the very center of Banja Luka, it is obvious that this is a calculated show of force which has the function of laying the groundwork for the execution of the order, and exerting psychological pressure on the public and citizens of Banja Luka Municipality. An additional piece of information which implies possible cooperation of relevant institutions in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY], is the fact that Belgrade recently officially confiscated President Martic's official residence in the city. Since there is a possibility of an escalation of events that would be unfavorable to the

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peace process in the Union of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the event of the arrest of any persons who according to the laws of the internationally recognized RS entity are subject to its judicial and state bodies, I responsibility claim that it is necessary to inform the public of this, Mladjenovic said.

Milan Martic's imminent arrest is also being very seriously discussed in the RS army's intelligence circles in Banja Luka. Our sources say that the noose is tightening around Martic, that his place of residence has been precisely located, while IFOR vehicles carrying special forces are circling and nearing Martic's residence. The same sources believe that it is a matter of days before IFOR members attempt to arrest Milan Martic and extradite him to The Hague.

Your TELEGRAF correspondent recently met Republic of Serb Krajina President Milan Martic in the Banja Luka area. Despite the abovementioned circumstances, Martic looks refreshed, bright, with a gleam in his eye, and ready for a joke. He met us with the quip that he would only start to change "once the war is over, because the Croats and the world still have not beaten the Serbs, this is just the beginning."

[Martic] I do not recognize the so-called Hague Tribunal, it is yet another shameless form of the international community's judicial system aimed at convicting all Serbs irrespective of where they are, which is in the interest of the world powers who started the war in the area. The project has been systematized with the goal of beating the Serb people, and we are today unfortunately aware of the consequences. It is clear that the entire process today has the function of trying the Serbs as losers in the war and stressing their responsibility for everything that happened. This is a wish to avoid a real investigation into the still concealed identity of the real culprits for the disintegration of Yugoslavia. I am aware that this is basically a political court for me and my people, and I know that in case of my arrest I would be extradited to the Croats; therefore, neither the Dayton agreement nor the so-called Hague Tribunal is binding for me or my people. I have not the slightest intention of going along with the decisions of the Serbs' deadly enemies, or with any enemy gesture directed against me personally. I am warning all those who have any intentions of this kind that I will consider this an act of terrorism and I will act in accordance with this fact. In view of the tragedy that has befallen my people, my role is not to be judged, but to pass judgment.

[Kesic] Does this mean that you will defend yourself with arms?

[Martic] They are attacking me with arms, therefore I will defend myself in the same way. These are the only arguments that today's terrorists understand.

[Kesic] How would you assess the FRY's stance toward the The Hague Tribunal?

[Martic] Shameful. This is capitulation. They have recently confiscated the Belgrade residence in which representatives of the Republic of Serb Krajina Government worked on preserving our state's continuity in the world. They went so far as to confiscate some of my personal things.

Well-informed political circles in Banja Luka claim that even the RS authorities—who in August last year gave him refugee—have given up on Milan Martic's case. Namely, a few days ago, the Serbian Democratic Party [SDS] organized a protest rally in the Borik assembly hall, which was addressed by the highest representatives of the Banja Luka region and the SDS. It was decided at the rally that any attempts to arrest President Karadzic and General Mladic would be prevented at any cost. Milan Martic's name, however, was not mentioned on this occasion.

The same circles hold the "politically reasonable" view that the extradition of Milan Martic to The Hague would be the least painful for both the international community and the Serb political and military leaderships on both sides of the Drina River. In connection to this, the arrest of RS President Radovan Karadzic and Commander of the RS army's Main Headquarters General Ratko Mladic is not taken very seriously. Not at the present moment. The reason for this claim is the fact that Karadzic and Mladic until yesterday traveled throughout the RS freely and without any particular security, and that they had no problems crossing IFOR checkpoints.

The question is, will the two RS leaders continue to act this way?

Well-informed sources in the RS army claim that there are two possible answers. The first is that in the future, General Mladic and President Karadzic will not travel without serious security. There are even claims that their residences are surrounded by groups of several hundred special troops, who will defend their leaders in case of an assault by IFOR forces. The other answer implies another important question: is the arrest and extradition of Karadzic and Mladic to The Hague NATO's current priority in Bosnia? RS army intelligence sources have told TELEGRAF that at the moment this is a secondary issue. They also exclusively revealed that the RS army has obtained information about the DIA's secret plan, according to which NATO forces in Bosnia will try to put the entire Bosnia-Herzegovina region under their

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military and political control. Namely, the primary plan is to try to utilize Karadzic and Mladic for the purpose of their policy. In this case, NATO, and primarily the United States, would control the Serbian military and political territory to the Drina River, and thus directly destabilize the FRY. Since it is highly unlikely that General Mladic and President Karadzic would agree to conduct U.S. policy, TELEGRAF sources claim that it is possible that IFOR forces will implement a second plan and attempt to use assault forces to arrest President Karadzic and General Mladic. However, our sources claim that NATO allies cannot agree on this. This is the second option, according to which the Unites States would have easy access to this Hollywood production. However, the European allies believe that this would probably lead to conflicts resulting in a large number of casualties, which would directly and irreversibly undermine the Dayton agreement. Thus, the war would have to continue, and the European allies are against this method.

While military, strategic, and political circles are mulling over these possibilities, the CIA and the DIA are thoroughly covering the Bosnian terrain. RS intelligence sources claim that another NATO battalion (mainly U.S. Army members), has already arrived in the Muslim-Croat Federation, and that it is a military formation specialized for psychological propaganda activities, and that this is its first real assignment in true life circumstances since its formation. All members of this battalion speak Serbian, and some of them have honed their skills on various dialects. Their official assignment is to prepare the public for the upcoming elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but there can be no doubt that these activities are of a much wider scope. In this context, one top-level DIA official recently told THE WASHINGTON POST that they have already recruited some 500 Serbs in the RS, mainly journalists and humanitarian workers.

If we realistically examine all known facts, it is not NATO's priority at the moment to arrest Mladic or Karadzic. They have absolutely covered all our communications, state and military; they are bugging all our conversations; and it is no secret to them where Mladic and Karadzic are at any given moment. As far as we know, they are trying to destroy the low-level military and state structures by bribing and recruiting some of our people; they believe that this will lead to the downfall of our entire system, TELEGRAF sources in the RS army claim, and add: We are doing everything to see that they do not succeed.

Serbia: Serbian Socialist Party Congress Begins in Belgrade

LD0203095396 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0905 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—The third congress of the Socialist Party of Serbia began in the main hall of the Belgrade Sava Center just after 0900 with the singing of the anthem "Hej Sloveni." It is expected that a document will be approved at this congress on planned development called "Serbia 2000—a step into the new century," and that the leadership of the party, its chairman, and members of the main committee, will be elected.

One thousand eight hundred and fifty delegates are taking part in the work of the congress. Delegations of 70 parties from 40 countries and many members of the diplomatic corps in our country are present at the congress as guests.

Serbia: Prime Minister Discusses Economy at SPS Congress

LD0203145096 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1427 GMT 2 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 2 (TANJUG)—Prime Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, Mirko Marjanovic, said that by the year 2000, the per capita income in the country will be over 2,500 dollars, real earnings will trebble, and a growth of pensions and of the standard of living will follow.

Speaking at the third congress of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), that opened in Belgrade Saturday [2 March], Marjanovic said all this will be possible in market economy conditions, and with an offensive and open development strategy.

Using all its human and material potential, Marjanovic said, Serbia can realistically expect to enter the next century much richer and considerably higher level of development, compared to the current level.

Plans for the economic and social development of Serbia by the year 2000 have determined ambitious economic and social goals, Marjanovic said.

In the execution of those plans, the country's activity will go in four directions, Marjanovic said.

The first is the accelerated building of a modern market economy in which the state had an important role. The state must protect the basic institutions of a market

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economy—ownership and agreements, and to secure for all equal conditions of market competition.

The second direction is to build an offensive export strategy based on the advantages which Serbia already has, and on those which could be created soon and in which foreign capital, besides domestic capital, would be interested.

In view of the size of existing capacites and a relatively small domestic market, it is indispensable to secure over a short period of time that more than one half of the income be realized on foreign markets.

The third direction is related to structural changes, Marjanovic said. He added that an unfavorable economic structure has been inherited after three years of international sanctions.

A significantly changed economic structure would favor a highly profitable production of finished goods, by using new technology, developing modern services and taking advantage of the favorable geographic position of Serbia, the prime minister specified. He added that greater importance will be given to agriculture, which has big possibilities.

An openess to the world market will make the economy of Serbia more attractive for foreign investors and joint ventures, which will contribute in turn to speeding up the process of structural changes in the economy, he added.

The fourth direction concerns social protection, Marjanovic said. He added that there can be no successful restructuring without a well-conceived welfare programme.

The developement of market competition, financial discipline on all levels, clear-cut ownership relations, modern system of collective negotiations and well-paid workers, will create the indispensable basis for a rich and just society which the Socialist Party of Serbia is advocating, Serbian Premier Marjanovic said.

Serbia: FRY's Sainovic Addresses SPS Congress

LD0203183796 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1529 GMT 2 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 2 (TANJUG)—We hold the 3rd congress of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) at a time of the triumph of peace, the reaffirmation of the position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) in the international community, and the shift to social development—said here on Saturday [2 March] Nikola Sainovic at the beginning of the highest meeting of the ruling party in this Yugoslav republic.

Sainovic, chairman of the congress organizing committee, speaking of the program document 'Serbia 2000—a step into a new century', said that the signing of the peace agreement in Dayton 'has confirmed Serbia's and S.F.R.Y's basic commitment that the equality of nations is the only key to the crisis in the area of former Yugoslavia, which, after many unnecessary victims, have been accepted by all of the parties to the conflict and by the international community.'

Sainovic said that it was 'on this principle that peace was concluded, which is the best verification of the correctness of our policy.'

He added that it was also 'on the principle of equality of citizens, nations and states that we strengthen our country, our international position, wishing to develop economic relations with foreign countries and to strengthen stability in the region.'

'Our approach to foreign policy, internal organization and economic development, on the basis of equality of people and free economic initiative, along with a high degree of social justice—not as social welfare but as a social relationship and developmental strategy of the country—define the SPS as a party of modern left that does not accept either old or new dogmas but has the well-being of all citizens as its fundamental objective,' Sainovic stressed.

Sainovic, who is vice-premier of the F.R.Y., said that since the SPS was founded six years earlier, 2,000 days of history passed in the Balkans marked by the forcible secession of the former yugoslav Republics, the civil war in the immediate vicinity, human victims of a humanitarian drama, and the cruel fate of refugees.

'This was a time of historical verification and confirmation of the basic commitments of the SPS program, the time when in the most difficult conditions and under huge international pressures, it had been necessary to defend the survival of the state and the nation, the lives of all citizens, and to prevent the conflagrating war machine in the western part of the former Yugoslavia from crossing the Drina and igniting Serbia with war,' he assessed.

Sainovic pointed out that all this had been taking place in the conditions of the international community's partiality, fabricated charges and a media war, under the vast material limitations and a 60 per cent decline in the gross national product relative to the pre-sanctions period 'which we also at that time called an economic crisis and when we had just started Serbia's economic recovery.'

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'All the pressures notwithstanding, we have been consistently and energetically defending the fundamental right to equality of the Serbian people in the seceded republics of the former Yugoslavia, being well aware that this is our historical responsibility before future generations.'

'At the same time,' Sainovic went on to say, 'we have been defending also the equality of all citizens of Serbia, have preserved peace in the republic and created elementary conditions, under the conditions of huge sanctions-induced hardships, to maintain the foundation of the country's economy for a post-sanctions economic recovery.'

Sainovic said that the SPS came out at the elections four times: In 1990, twice in 1992, and in 1993, and triumphed always, winning confidence of Serbia's citizens for ruling the country.

'These were the conditions when, having less than half the gross national product, we had 700,000 refugees, the war in our immediate vicinity and the sanctions against our state, and when every sowing and harvesting, and heating season, and the production of medicaments and electric power, and the maintenance of transport, became almost unsolvable technically,' Sainovic said.

Sainovic said that the SPS, energetic in the defence of the Serbian people's right to equality, was equally energetic in condemning also the non-acceptance of the peace plan on the part of the leadership of the Republika Srpska (R.S.) at the time when conditions were generated for the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) to be equal and free.

'Since, unfortunately, for this conviction to be accepted it also took too much time and unnecessary victims, we had taken on the historic responsibility for concluding peace. A delegation of the F.R.Y., headed by President of Serbia Slobodan Milosevic, in Dayton preserved what had almost been lost and secured conditions for a just and honourable peace,' he said.

'The days since Dayton to this date and the implemented difficult stages of the military aspect of the Dayton Agreement, the lifted sanctions against Yugoslavia and the R.S., and the establishment of an equal treatment of the R.S. in the further course of the implementation of the agreement, account only for a major illustration of the correctness of the long-term positive prospect of the policy of peace which had halted the war drama and created conditions for a return to work, economic reconstruction and the resolution of concrete problems of living,' said Sainovic.

Sainovic said that the political activity priorities now were the further stabilization of the peace process, the renewal of the F.R.Y.'s activity in the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the strengthening of bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, with the big countries in the east and the west, and with all partners throughout the world which favour peace and economic development.

'In this respect, our foreign-political activity should continue in an equally energetic and principled way, with the stand that the foundation of our internal and external stability is a free and equal communication between Yugoslavia and the international community, a free circulation of people, capital, scientific thought, and cultural creation,' said Sainovic.

Sainovic noted that 'on the internal plane, it is necessary to energetically and systematically remove the sanctions' effects on the economic and legal systems and life, which presumes a normalization of commodity exchange with the world, the legalization of all forms of trade and of financial transactions, and the decriminalization of all domains of life. this will in its turn secure the safety of citizens and the stability [words indistinct] of the basic guarantees for domestic and foreign investments and development of the best projects in the stablest country in the Balkans,' he added.

'On the economic plane,' Sainovic continued, 'it is most important that conditions be created for a quick recovery of the domestic economy, while simultaneously working on the strategic developmental projects in order to secure the country's overall development, to catch up with the forcedly lost pace with the world, and to find a place amongst the medium-developed countries in Europe for the entry of Serbia and the F.R.Y. into the 21st century as an economically equal and developmentally attractive state.'

Sainovic said that the strategic interest of the state was the generation of conditions for the influx of foreign capital and investments in large-sized projects, in the agricultural complex, infrastructure, industries, tourist trade, transport, fuel and power, and telecommunications, which, counting in also the country's potentials, would do at least to double the gross national product by the year 2000.

In noting that the SPS is committed to a free market economy open on the world, to an equal protection of property and rights of all economic subjects big and small, domestic and foreign, Sainovic stressed that the question of the property pattern of the domestic economy should be completely linked to the developmental objectives in keeping with the market logic.

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'We hold that there is no buying without capital, no selling without buyers, no owners without investing, that the fatigued economy which we had hardly saved must not be dismembered first in order to be later allegedly developed, that the unwealthy enterprises do not have to share something first and then allegedly to gain, that the workers who had sustained vast sacrifice to preserve enterprises may not find themselves out in the streets,' said Sainovic.

'Every property and every enterprise,' Sainovic added, 'can be sold or provided with additional capital only in keeping with the market conditions, with the clear-cut developmental objective which is motivated economically, and with one's own decision, and in that way build up its prospect being aware of its own risk and responsibility for the property and people who work there.'

'No one may be protected from poor performance and business activity, and the clear-cut market consequences are a market competition, profit, loss, or bankruptcy,' he stressed.

Sainovic noted that the Yugoslav economy for more than 40 years has not been a central planned economy and its enterprises throughout this period have been signing contracts, taking up credits, and concluding thousands of internationally legally valid deals worth tens of billions dollars on the world market. Hence the 'freedom of foreign investments, by removing the restrictions on owners' rights in any of the domains of economic activity, along with the investors' legal security, would ensure a simultaneous recovery and development on the basis of comparable advantages of the Yugoslav economy and the already prepared projects for the new century.'

Sainovic said that the Yugoslav Federation was the lasting commitment of the SPS. 'The preservation of its integrity and sovereignty is a sacred thing and we shall not allow anyone to violate and jeopardize it. We shall speed up to the maximum the enactment of federal laws in conformity with the Constitution of the F.R.Y. and secure the exercise of federal functions, developing modern federal institutions and the Army of Yugoslavia (VJ),' said Sainovic in conclusion.

Serbia: Various Speakers Address SPS Congress in Belgrade

LD0203171896 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1650 GMT 2 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 2 (TANJUG)—The third SPS [Socialist Party of Serbia] congress, held in Belgrade Saturday [2 March], will define the conceptual profile of the party as a modern and authentic left whose basic orientation is a free society, economically and spiritually rich, of social justice, of equal people, of human dignity, of solidarity and peace among peoples and states, said Zorica Gajevic, a senior official in the ruling party.

Gajevic, head of the SPS party club in the parliament of Serbia, said that the political goals of the party contained in the basic document of the congress "Serbia 2000—A Step Into a Next Century", are based on a personnel policy whose criteria are competence, political-ideological and peace commitment, honesty and courage for struggle which characterizes political life in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia.

Gajevic suggested that SPS will pay greater attention in the future to those living from their work—workers, farmers, and members of national minorities and women, and to sectors for economic-social issues, the legal system, education, science and cultre, international cooperation, information and propaganda.

The council for theoretical work should be reactivated, because the issue of the theory of democratic socialism has been marginalized in political life in the last few years, she said.

Gajevic said that SPS should cooperate will all democratic and progressive parties in the world, and build stronger cooperation with all leftist parties and movements in the FRY.

Noting that "clashes and mutual accusations on the left are inadmissible, because that can damage greatly the idea of the left", Gajevic said that SPS was advocating "unification, in the interest of the progress of our state and the well-being of our citizens, of all progressive forces, the forces of the left".

Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, Dragan Tomic, said at the congress that SPS had the task to introduce Serbia, as a modern, strong, rich, respected, democratic, European state within the Yugoslav Federation, into the 21st Century.

Tomic assessed that Serbia will step into the next century as a fully developed, a democratic society in an efficient and responsible state of citizens living in it.

In the next few years, before the 21st Century, we must secure and ensure the rule of law, as the basic principle of state and political constitution because that is the condition for the existance of a democratic, free society, the basic condition of its full economic, political, cultural and sientific development, Tomic said.

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Tomic said that the constant fight against all forms of crimes, corruption, war profiteering, was one of the most significant programme goals and duties of SPS, the ruling party in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and in its federal unit of Serbia.

Tomic promised the development of local self-rule, and the freedom of the press that will be based on the most democratic world laws protecting not only journalists and their profession from use and abuse, but also the citizens from abuse by the press.

The parliament speaker assessed that it is time to determine clearly and implement the functions of the Federation with Montenegro.

A strong and fully developed Yugoslav state, as a modern European federation, is one of the most importaant interests of citizens at the turn of the century, and such a strong federation should develop especially relations with all the Balkan states, the speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia said in conclusion.

In a statement made at the congress, the vice-president of the Serbian Government, Dr Slobodan Unkovic, said that the highest meeting of Socialists of Serbia was characterized by a modern approach to current development issues, and that he was especially satisfied with the part of the document relating to science, as a strategical vehicle of developmenet.

The federal minister for foreign affairs, Milan Milutinovic, stressed that it is clear that SPS is a party of the 21st century, a party of ideas and programmes, and not of cadres.

Milutinovic emphasized that the presence of 67 foreign delegations on the congress showed the great solidarity of socialist parties with SPS and speaks of the highly-rated place and role of Serbia and the FRY in the world.

The head of the party group of the Montenegran Democratic Party of Socialists in parliament, Milan Gajovic, a guest at the third congress, assessed that SPS is showing its strength, unity and socialist orientation, and its orientation for a market economy and development, which demonstrates that the party is in line with modern movements and tendencies.

Serbia: Milosevic Hailed Peace 'Champion' by SPS

AU0203180896 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 2 (AFP)—President Slobodan Milosevic was hailed champion of Bosnia's peace process by his Serbian Socialist Party (SPS) Saturday [2 March] as it declared rump Yugoslavia's intent to enter the international fold.

He was given a triumphal welcome by the 1,800 delegates at the party's third congress here for his "historic role" on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs in helping seal the Dayton peace accord.

Milosevic "preserved at Dayton what had appeared lost and created conditions for a just and honourable peace," said Nikola Sainovic, vice-premier of the rump Yugoslavia formed by Serbia and Montenegro.

He said in a report that, up to Milosevic's intervention, the Bosnian Serbs' rejection of an international peace plan had contributed to the continuation of the war and "needless victims."

The last SPS congress was held in October 1992 after the Bosnian conflict began, since when sanctions had been imposed on rump Yugoslavia which were lifted only in November.

Gross domestic product fell by 60 percent because of the sanctions, Sainovic added as he accused the international community of bias.

He said rump Yugoslavia wanted to play a full role in "stabilising the peace process," hoped to join the United Nations and other international organisations and have access to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The congress was due to adopt a motion outlining a broad economic strategy until the year 2000. It would liberalise trade and draw up measures to attract foreign investment, but tread softly on privatisation.

"An economy on its last gasp which has been preserved at the cost of huge efforts should not be dismantled ... at the risk of seeing workers thrown onto the streets," it said.

Milosevic was due to be re-elected party president, a post which he has held since July 1990.

Analysts predicted he would use the congress, which was due to end later on Saturday, to strengthen his already tight grip on power. He is expected to see in a reshuffle in the ranks to boost the position of moderate supporters.

He began a purge in November after returning from Dayton peace negotiations, dumping the main supporters of the extreme nationalist wing whom he had earlier encouraged.

SPS spokesman Ivica Dacic said Friday several senior officials could expect to lose their jobs in order to make it better able to tackle the opposition in the coming "political battle."

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Serbia's opposition is, however, extremely weak in reality and has boycotted the Yugoslav parliament since last summer, accusing the Milosevic regime of totalitarianism.

The opposition is aiming on March 9 to mark the fifth anniversary of a mass demonstration held in 1991 which nearly shook Milosevic from power.

Serbia: Milosevic Comments on Past SPS 'Negligence'

AU0203182696 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1706 GMT 2 Mar 96

[Address by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic at the Third Congress of the SPS in Belgrade on 2 March—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrades! [tumultuous applause] Cheers! Comrades, dear guests, Serbia has over the last few years gone through hard times. Although its entire history has been hard and we thought that Serbia had already got used to hardship, still these hard years took their toll on us, primarily because we all thought—particularly in the years following World War II—that the time of peace had come, at least for this part of the world, and certainly for Serbia.

Unfortunately this has not been the case. Behind us are several painful years of sanctions, refugees, and a war that was fought in the nearest proximity. Serbia has materially and morally assisted all Serbs in need, those in war where war was waged, those in peace where there was no work, and those made refugees here in our homes, and all this while Serbia was itself under sanctions, sanctions that were imposed on it because of that material and moral assistance to Serbs outside Serbia. These are the solidarity and sacrifice that the Serb nation in general, wherever it may be, should remember for eternity. There have been few examples in history where a nation was faced with a need to express such solidarity, and there have been few occasions in history where a nation managed to show such solidarity. This solidarity shown not only by the Serb nation but by all the citizens of Serbia is a lasting and most beautiful monument to their humanness. [loud applause] All those who have been on the receiving end of that solidarity should remember it as a lesson in kindness, and as a debt that perhaps they will have to return to a future generation. By remembering such lessons and such debts, both nations and people survive.

We in Serbia and the FRY face a new age. Peace has been signed, the sanctions have been suspended, and the refugees will slowly start returning home. Serbia now has to be engaged in its own development, particularly its economic development. It is quite understandably economically very exhausted, but—even during these last few hard years—it has managed well, as well as a nation possible could in the hardships it has had to encounter. That is why there are many reasons for us to be convinced that Serbia will manage to make a speedy economic recovery. To make that recovery, it has to use all its modern technological experience to try and unite as many citizens, experts, workers, farmers, intellectuals, and young people as possible. The same goes for the cultural development. Our country has over the centuries enjoyed a great reputation in the world in all the spheres of scientific and cultural creativity, also including sports. It now has to renew these cultural, scientific, and sports resources. The economic and cultural development have to be our political program, our step into the next century that will enable us to live in peace at the very beginning of that century, to be dedicated to our development and turned to the future. To that end, for the development of our republic, it would be reasonable and necessary for all who feel close to that commitment to work for it together.

The Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS], as the ruling party over the past few years, and the largest party in the country, bears the greatest responsibility for the future development of Serbia. It is obliged to support and contribute to every progressive unification of material and spiritual forces in society for peace, for economic and cultural prosperity. The SPS has over the last few years strived to do the best it could in the interests of the society, and giving priority at the same time to the position and future of the Serb people not only in Serbia but the Serb people on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Even now we have reason to believe that we acted correctly in the policies we have been conducting. No one should have the right to claim [loud applause interrupts him], no one should have the right to claim that there has been no negligence, nationalistic outbursts, personnel failures, political disloyalty, moral failings, and wrong assessments. The problem is not in the negligence; both the society and individuals can be negligent. The problem with negligence starts when one refuses to see it. Negligence that cannot be seen cannot be removed. We faced many cases of negligence before the Congress, and some of them we identified during the preparations for this Congress. We will continue to remove all cases of negligence responsibly and without pathos, not only for the good of the SPS, but for the good that the SPS wishes for Serbia, its citizens, and the FRY. [loud applause] That is why I am convinced that this Congress will be the first step we wish to make toward the coming century, toward the better times ahead for us and for all those who strive for peace and progress.

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Comrades, I wish you all success and a happy personal and family life. [tumultuous applause goes on for three minutes]

Serbia: Milosevic Reelected Socialist Party Chairman

LD0203175096 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1719 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—Slobodan Milosevic has been elected again as president of the Socialist Party of Serbia.

Out of 1799 delegates who were handed voting slips 1795 voted for Milosevic while one voting slip was invalid.

Dusan Matkovic, the president of the Third Socialist Party Congress Election Committee, announced at the plenary session that all the 185 proposed members of the Main committee have been elected.

Furthermore, 11 members of the Statutory and nine members of the Monitoring Commission were elected in an open vote.

Serbia: Milosevic: SPS Congress Important for Nation

LD0303173896 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1655 GMT 3 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 3 (TANJUG)—Serbian President and Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) President Slobodan Milosevic said Sunday [3 March] the 3rd SPS congress, held under the working title 'A Step Into A New Century,' was of great importance for the development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Addressing representatives of foreign parties and movements who were visitors at the congress, Milosevic said he was certain the step into the new century would be successful to the extent in which the world was integrated in the interest of peace, progress, equality, tolerance, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

The twentieth century has shown that the world is becoming ever smaller and that the biggest rule of the modern world is the process of integration with which the world is becoming more and more united, Milosevic said.

The coming century should show all these values and the richness of development which united mankind can achieve. In that respect, forces of the left all over the world give the greatest possible contribution, urging equality of nations and people, Milosevic said.

Milosevic expressed satisfaction with the successful cooperation between the SPS and many leftist political parties from the world.

The guests paid tribute to Milosevic and the SPS for their consistent efforts and perseverence in the struggle to achieve equality among states and peoples, and for the establishment of peace and stability in the region, as examples which testify to the success of Yugoslavia's principled policy.

Serbia: Milosevic Hails 'Forces of the Left'

AU0303203896 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Statement by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic following talks with representatives of foreign parties and movements who participated in the Socialist Party of Serbia Congress in Belgrade on 3 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] This Congress that was held under the working title of A Step into the New Century is very important for the development of our country. However, concerning this step into the new century, I would like to express to you all my firm conviction that this step into the new century will be successful to the extent to which we make it all together, to the extent to which the entire world integrates in the interests of peace and progress, equality, tolerance, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

The 20th century has shown that the world is becoming smaller and that the greatest law of the modern world is the process of integration in which the world is increasingly becoming united. The next century should shown this diversity in development that the united world can achieve. I am sure that in that respect the forces of the left in the entire world, which are striving for equality among nations and peoples, are giving the greatest possible contribution.

Thank you once again for being in Belgrade today, and I wish you all much success and happiness. Thank you.

Serbia: Montenegrin President Addresses SPS Congress

LD0203175896 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1739 GMT 2 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 2 (TANJUG)—The Montenegrin president said on Saturday [2 March] that the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] had had to make some complex and often dramatic decisions in these times that were some of

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the hardest in the history of former Yugoslavia and the Balkans.

President Momir Bulatovic was welcoming the participants in the party's third congress on behalf of the delegation of Montenegro and all political parties in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Federation of Serbia and Montenegro).

Bulatovic said that Montenegro's ruling Democratic Party of Socialists, too, was aware of the weight of this burden, and added that the two republics and parties had shared the burden as brothers and friends as best they could.

He said that the world public was beginning to recognise the long-term moves made with political calm and rationality that had been invisible for a long time because of an unjust media demonisation of Yugoslavia and the Socialist Party of Serbia.

Bulatovic did not conceal his pleasure at the success of the Montenegrin party's ideological, political and coalition partner.

He said that the Serbian party was a powerful and indispensable factor of state and politics in Yugoslavia and the region, as well as in the global body politics that defines the eternal ideas of humanity and justice in dealings among peoples and states.

In the days when the idea of socialism was in the worst crisis in its history and when it was shunned by many (who thus turned their backs on their own past), the Socialist Party of Serbia mustered the knowledge and determination to adjust to the changed social reality.

Even in those circumstances, it found a way to win over a convincing majority of the Serbs for its ideas, Bulatovic added.

Bulatovic said that the domestic political situation had become calmer and that the forces that had advocated insulation, intolerance and discrimination had fallen silent and were disappearing from the country's political scene.

Serbia: Serb Socialist Party Elects New Secretary General

LD0203193796 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1903 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—The main committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] today elected Gorica Gajevic as the new secretary general of the SPS.

Zoran Lilic, Bosko Perosevic Nikola Sainovic, and Slavica Djukic-Pejanovic were elected SPS vice chairmen.

Serbia: Serb Socialist Party Executive Committee Named

LD0203205096 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2001 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—The newly elected Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] Main Committee at its first session chaired by Slobodan Milosevic tonight, unanimously elected the vice presidents, secretary general, and members of the party's executive council. [passage omitted]

Members of the SPS Executive Committee are: Mirko Marjanovic, Dragan Tomic, Nedeljko Sipovac, Tomica Raicevic, Branislav Ivkovic, Goran Percevic, Ivica Dacic, Nebojsa Covic, Slavisa Ilic, Ljubomir Ilkic, Milovan Krivokapic, Milivoj Miletic, Zoran Vujovic, Zivorad Djordjevic, Hajrije Rugova, Dragoljub Milanovic, Dragan Markovic and Dusko Matkovic.

Serbia: SPS Congress: Peace, Political Dialogue Realized

LD0203203896 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2020 GMT 2 Mar 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 2 (TANJUG)—The ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) defended vital national and state interests in historically decisive moments and confirmed it was a party of the modern left, said a report adopted at the SPS congress which closed Saturday [2 March].

During the period since the last congress, the party's main objectives were achieved: The war in former Yugoslavia ceased and all controversial issues were resolved using political means, said the report on the party's work in this period.

Through the principled and consistent state and party policy of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic peace was established in the territory of former Yugoslavia, the report said.

The report also said that the SPS had managed, insisting on a policy of full national equality, to preserve interethnic tolerance even in conditions when war was all around the country and nationalistic passions were spurred.

Socialists point out that they confirmed—with their consistent policy of equality and guaranteed rights to national minorities, higher than those established by European standards—Serbia's reputation as a stable multiethnic community in which people lived in equality and in peace.

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The report said that Socialists, with their policy, had contributed to the strengthening, recognition, and greater respect of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as an equal community of the Republics of Montenegro and Serbia.

Serbia: Opposition Protests Report by 'Regime-Run' Studio

AU0403163096 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 4 Mar 96 p 6

[Article by Z. Radovanovic: "A Phoney Studio B"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The report by Studio B from a rally in Kragujevac is just yet another in a series of proofs that the once independent television station has become regime-run," it is said in the joint statement issued by the SPO [Serbian Renewal Party], DS [Democratic Party], and GSS [Serbian Citizens' Alliance].

"The report from yesterday's meeting of the democratic opposition broadcast by the state-run Studio B was falsified. Not only did the new editors try to withhold information from viewers that in Kragujevac DS Chairman Zoran Djindjic spoke, but they also broadcast the least important excerpt from the speeches of SPO Chairman Vuk Draskovic and GSS Chairwoman Vesna Pesic, which did not reflect the essence of their speeches.

"With such reporting the state-run Studio B tried to distort the meaning of the joint rally of the opposition parties, which is what the SPS [Socialist Party of Serbia] most fears. With such reporting from Kragujevac, Studio B fawned over its new bosses, 50 minutes of whose Congress was covered in yesterday's program alone, more than any other television station, apart from Radio-Television of Serbia," the statement reads.

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